

THE PINK

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Chelsea thrash the Cherries
Report and pictures - p5

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Misery for Spitfires



Tranmere defeat hits play-off dream - page 8

Euro hopes rekindled

Saints back in the mix with win

SAINTS' European hopes were given a significant boost as they defeated bottom of the table Aston Villa 4-2.

Two goals from Dusan Tadic and others from Shane Long and Sadio Mane secured a win on a tricky afternoon for Saints as they played in a toxic atmosphere at Villa Park.

With Newcastle fighting back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Liverpool at Anfield, the three points for Saints increased their chances of a top six finish.

Continued on pages 3 and 4



Dusan Tadic celebrates scoring the third goal for Saints during the Barclays Premier League match at Villa Park earlier today

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Premier League: Aston Villa 2 SAINTS 4

Saints hit four as bid for Europe continues



Dusan Tadic is challenged by Aston Villa's Kevin Toner



Southampton's Oriol Romeu and Aston Villa's Jordan Ayew in action

From front page

Saints started the game in commanding fashion, and so nearly took the lead after two minutes.

A ball around the outside of the defence was collected by Shane Long. He got a fortunate ricochet to keep it in his path towards goal.

It sat up just in front of him 12 yards out but his half volley slammed against the underside of the bar and bounced away.

Villa did test Fraser Forster on eight minutes with Jordan Ayew getting in a low drive from the edge of the area that the Saints keeper got down at his near post to stop.

Five minutes later the Villa striker lashed into the side netting.

Long may have missed his earlier chance but he was not going to be denied when presented with an even better opening on 15 minutes.

It was unbelievably poor defending from Villa who allowed Ryan Bertrand to receive the ball back from a left wing throw in and measure a pinpoint cross into the box.

Long drifted in totally unmarked and from six yards out he headed past Brad Guzan for 1-0.

Villa should have levelled things up on 22 minutes as Leandro Bacuna arrived ahead of Cedric Soares to meet a left wing cross but from eight yards out he headed wide.

Koeman would have been keen for Saints to get a second goal to give his side a cushion with such a low intensity level in the game as a result of Villa's poor play, awful form and the terrible atmosphere in the half empty stadium with the fans either booing their own team or trying to throw paper aeroplanes onto the pitch.

They nearly delivered it on the half hour mark as Victor Wanyama's blocked shot fell to Virgil van Dijk. His low drive looked to have Brad Guzan beaten but struck the near post and went away from danger.

Long did get the ball in the



Sadio Mane celebrates his goal

TEAM NEWS

JAY Rodriguez was handed his first Saints start in seven months as Ronald Koeman made four changes to the team that drew at Everton for the trip to Aston Villa.

Rodriguez hadn't started a game since October following a foot operation, which in itself interrupted his comeback from a knee problem, but Koeman decided the time was right to throw him in to face Aston Villa.

Cedric Soares, Oriol Romeu and Steven Davis also came into the team.

Cuco Martina, Jordy Clasie,

Sadio Mane and Graziano Pelle were the men to drop out.

Saints: Forster, Cedric, Fonte, van Dijk, Bertrand, Wanyama, Romeu, S Davis, Rodriguez, Tadic, Long.

Subs: Stekelenburg, Yoshida, Martina, Clasie, Ward-Prowse, Mane, Pelle.

Aston Villa: Guzan, Hutton, Lescott, Richards, Cissokho, Sanchez, Westwood, Gana, Bacuna, Sinclair, Ayew.

Subs: Veretout, Gil, Bunn, Lyden, Gestede, Grealish, Toner.

net four minutes later but was correctly flagged for off-side.

The reason that Saints needed another goal was illustrated moments later as only a good last ditch tackle from Cedric prevented Ashley Westwood converting from close range.

The second goal did come on 39 minutes.

Long outpaced Joleon Lescott to get in behind after intercepting a sloppy back-pass and was stopped from scoring by Guzan getting down at his feet and a hand to the ball.

Continued on page 4

HAVE YOUR SAY ON SAINTS - COMMENT ONLINE AT www.dailyecho.co.uk

SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Euro dream still alive after victory

From page 3

However, Long picked up the rebound and squared it to Dusan Tadic who produced a calm first time sidefooted finish past Lescott to make it 2-0.

Much to the surprise of their own fans, and the annoyance of Koeman, Villa did pull a goal back seconds before half time.

Saints failed to close down sufficiently out wide and allowed Ayew to get in a left wing cross.

After a mix up in the area which saw Saints miss a chance to clear, the ball fell to Westwood who half volleyed low across goal and into the bottom corner to make it 2-1 at the break.

Koeman made a change for the second half with Jordy Clasie replacing Wanyama, while, for Villa, Kevin Toner came on for Micah Richards.

Jay Rodriguez had struggled to have a consistent involvement in the game as he felt his way back into things after so long out but almost provided a goal with an acrobatic volley six yards out, but it fired straight into Lescott and ricocheted wide.

Alan Hutton became the first man in the book for dragging down Bertrand as he threatened to burst into the box before Villa threw on big striker Rudy Gestede for Ayew on 59 minutes.

Steven Davis whipped in the free kick from the left wing but Guzan was alert at his near post and turned it over the bar.

Rodriguez was starting to look very dangerous and after winning possession he fired in a shot from 20 yards but it was straight at Guzan.

As long as Saints didn't put the game to bed then Villa always had a chance of getting back into it, and they issued a reminder as Gestede's flicked header landed on the roof of the net.

Villa brought on Jack Grealish for Carlos Sanchez before Saints tried to get some intensity into a meandering game with Sadio Mane replacing Rodriguez on 70 minutes.

They did just that a minute later as Saints scored a third and wrapped up the three points.

Villa gave the ball away near the Saints box and a quick break saw Long push forward before squaring to Tadic.

He took one touch to set the ball onto his left and a second to fire in a low shot from the edge of the area which took a slight deflection and went into the bottom corner.

Long almost got another as Guzan spilled a routine cross but he had to react instantly and couldn't prevent his shot going over the bar.

Saints again paid the price for a



Sadio Mane scores Saints' fourth goal



Tadic scores his first and Saints' second goal

drop in intensity as Villa pulled one back five minutes from time.

Grealish's right wing cross came to the unmarked Westwood just inside the area and he curled a right footed shot into the opposite bottom

corner for 3-2. Long nearly finished it off as he got in but lashed a shot wide of the near post.

The fourth official held up the board to show five minutes of added time and deep into it Saints added

another goal as Cedric's right wing cross picked out Mane just outside the six yard box and he headed downwards and past Guzan to secure a win that keeps the season alive.

'We made it hard for ourselves'

RONALD KOEMAN conceded Saints made life difficult for themselves at Aston Villa but was delighted to come away with three points to keep their season alive.

Saints fought out a 4-2 victory at Villa Park in a very tough atmosphere with the home crowd turning against their already relegated team, at times even cheering for Saints.

It made it a very unusual day, and Koeman conceded he had never known an atmosphere like it during his long and illustrious footballing career, and by the end he was just delighted to get the job done.

He said: "It's always strange to see the atmosphere. Normally there is more ambience in the stadium and the support to the home team was a little bit strange but our job was to win the game, to play football, to create chances and scoring goals.

"Most of all these aspects we did.

"Still we make it difficult for ourselves. To concede the 1-2 before half time and the 2-3 before the last five minutes.

"It was good enough for three points."

Dusan Tadic scored twice with Shane Long and Sadio Mane adding the others.

It was a strange game and a strange performance all in all as Saints struggled to keep the intensity in the match.

"Maybe from the start because we had a lot of ball possession and they didn't press, they were waiting on the half and to stop our ball possession," explained Koeman.

"Maybe then it is a little bit of a normal reaction that you think you can do it in an easy way."

"Ok, we score four goals and that was what we need because one of my criticisms last week was that we only scored one goal and four goals away from home is a good number of scoring goals."



Ronald Koeman at Villa Park

Bournemouth 1 Chelsea 4

Cherries are well beaten as Fabregas conjures goals...

CESC Fabregas conjured all of Chelsea's goals in a commanding performance to mask the Blues' defensive frailties in a 4-1 Premier League win at Bournemouth.

The Spain playmaker's inch-perfect through-balls teed up strikes for Pedro and Willian, while his astute flick round the corner let fit-again Eden Hazard drill home from 20 yards.

At the death another sumptuous Fabregas flick let Nemanja Matic square into the box for Hazard to tap home his second goal and cement the visitors' victory.

John Obi Mikel endured an uncomfortable afternoon as a makeshift centre-back, such was Chelsea boss Guus Hiddink's reluctance to start Matthew Miazga.

Gary Cahill's illness, coupled with John Terry's Achilles problem and Kurt Zouma's long-term knee issue, left Chelsea short in the heart of defence.

Mikel agreed to shift back from midfield, but hardly answered the clarion call from Hiddink with any kind of security.

Bournemouth wasted a hatful of first-half chances however, with only Tommy Elphick's header to show for their bluster.

Bournemouth dominated the opening five minutes but Chelsea punished their lack of penetration with the summary justice of Pedro's counter-attack goal.

Diego Costa found Fabregas and the Spaniard's through ball allowed Pedro to stroke home the opener in a three-touch move.

The Cherries restored their dominance, even adding the idea of a cutting edge - but woeful finishing stymied the hosts' advance.

Joshua King and Steve Cook skied shots from fine openings, before Lewis Grabban headed high and wide.

King fired a point-blank header straight at Asmir Begovic and Grabban glanced a header wide.

Just when Bournemouth sensed an equaliser, Chelsea struck again.

Fabregas' smart flick round the corner carved space for Hazard and the Belgium playmaker drilled home from 20 yards.

Again Bournemouth rallied, but this time they made their mark.

Begovic tipped Marc Pugh's hanging cross onto the bar, and from the corner the hosts finally troubled the scorers.

Elphick drove his header into the ground, the bounce eluding Begovic, and it went off the post and into the net.

Grabban then botched a one-on-one, with Begovic saving well, before Junior Stanislas shot wide from the edge of the area.



Chelsea's Eden Hazard scores his side's fourth goal of the game



Willian nets Chelsea's third goal of the game past Cherries keeper Artur Boruc



AFC Bournemouth's Tommy Elphick scores to give his side hope of a comeback

And at the end of the half Grabban was just unable to connect with Stanislas' low cross on the slide.

Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe introduced Benik Afobe and Callum Wilson on the hour to liven up a

stagnant second-half - but that only served as another catalyst for Chelsea.

The Blues shrugged off their latest malaise thanks to the excellent Fabregas, whose through-ball let Willian

canter clear and dink the ball over Artur Boruc for Chelsea's third goal.

As time ebbed away Fabregas produced another magical moment, his one-touch lay-off paving the way for Matic to tee up Hazard's second goal.

Toon stage Anfield comeback

NEWCASTLE manager Rafael Benitez knows a thing or two about second-half comebacks and he duly effected another as his side came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with former club Liverpool.

The Spaniard is still fondly remembered at Anfield for the 2005 Champions League final when the Reds recovered from 3-0 down to beat AC Milan, but the locals were less enamoured with this effort.

Trailing to goals from Daniel Sturridge and Adam Lallana at the interval the Magpies salvaged a valuable point in their battle against relegation thanks to strikes from Papiss Cisse and Jack Colback.

They are still a point from safety, having played one match more than 17th-placed Norwich, but having looked out of the game after 45 minutes this result may turn out to have a galvanising effect.

The drama on the pitch matched that off it as Liverpool defender Mamadou Sakho's failed drugs test for an apparent 'fat-burning' substance grabbed the pre-match headlines.

Having lost a trio of key players - midfielders Jordan Henderson and Emre Can plus in-form striker Divock Origi - to injury in the last three weeks, the last thing manager Jürgen Klopp would have wanted six days ahead of a crucial Europa League semi-final was to have another player ruled out.

Although the centre-back has not yet been charged and is therefore still eligible to play, Liverpool's owners, Klopp and the player - after consultation with UEFA and the Football Association - decided to withdraw him from selection.

The furore appeared to matter little as just 58 seconds in Sturridge scored his seventh goal in as many starts. A sustained period of dominance followed which culminated in Lallana curling home a shot from the edge of the penalty area on the half-hour after another assist from Moreno - the 50th goal in 26 league matches under Klopp.

Newcastle's revival got under way with Cisse powering home Vurnon Anita's cross after Simon Mignolet came to punch and missed.

The Belgium goalkeeper could do little with Colback's deflected shot which made it 2-2 in the 66th minute and gave Newcastle belief they could snatch an unlikely victory.

goals

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Adam Rant



The week's big talking points with ADAM LEITCH

Everton sucked in by downward pull

Martinez will do well to keep his job next season

IT'S STRANGE how sometimes football throws up a scenario where a seemingly perfect good team with a perfectly good manager just slumps.

Everton boss Roberto Martinez must be counting down the days until the end of the season, just hoping he can survive until the summer break for a chance to regroup, refresh and rethink things at Goodison Park.

The Toffees seem like they have unmistakable feeling of downward momentum sucking them in at the moment.

When that takes it hold it doesn't seem to matter what you do, what players you have, how much you try, it just keep going from bad to worse.

Alright, Everton have been beset by an unfortunate spate of injuries in recent weeks, and that goes some way to writing off this small period of their season.

However, it would be wrong to pretend that before that things were particularly rosy in the garden.

Despite a general trend of slow decline in recent years, take a quick look at Everton's squad and you see quality dotted everywhere.

They have a £50m rated centre half in John Stones, wanted by the biggest clubs in the world, and one of the most frightening, prolific and deadly strikers around in Romelu Lukaku, a player who would get into most other sides in the division.

In midfield they have Gareth Barry, a steady player of some experience. Their left back is the excellent Leighton Baines, while Ross Barkley has been likened to Paul Gascoigne and Wayne Rooney in the past. The list goes on.

Their manager, Martinez, comes with a reputation for playing attractive football, and is also known for his ability to keep a squad together and gel them.

On top of that the Blues have a passionate fan base and pack the best part of 40,000 supporters into every home game, even if their ground is increasingly archaic.

It would seem that everything is in place for Everton to thrive, and yet they continue to sink.

You have to conclude that logic doesn't always play a significant role in football, a sport where momentum really is king.



It has been a tough season for Everton manager Roberto Martinez

In these days of such short term goals for managers and clubs, there is not the room to grow and settle things down.

Everton, for example, are not going down this season, even if it has been below expectations, and have made the FA Cup semi-finals.

As such it is not a disaster, and, logically, you would expect given the quality of their squad and their manager that after a summer to cleanse that downward momentum they would be stronger next time out.

Yet, this is not the world we now

live in when it comes to thinking about football.

Instant results, instant gratification, is king.

As such, as much as Martinez would love the summer to come now, he will do well to still be in charge come the end of May.

Sad sight at Arsenal

IT'S RATHER sad to see the empty seats at the Emirates Stadium and the turning tide against manager Arsene Wenger.

As a man of dignity, at a club that oozes that class and dignity, it's not how you want things to end.

One of Wenger's other character traits is stubbornness though, and it seems he will continue and try to keep riding it out.

You hope he has the success he craves, and uses that as the moment to step away from Arsenal.

There would be nothing worse than it getting to a point where he had to bow out due to public pressure mounting to such a point that his position was all but untenable.



Arsene Wenger

A game of rounders?

IF MOST cricketers were good at football they would surely be footballers.

After all, that's where the big money is, and the glamorous lifestyles.

So why, you wonder, do so many cricket teams seem to like to include playing football as part of their warm-up routine.

It clearly gets the blood pumping and things moving, but it also is a sport that carries a risk of injury.

Fidel Edwards apparently fractured his ankle doing exactly that for Hampshire this week.

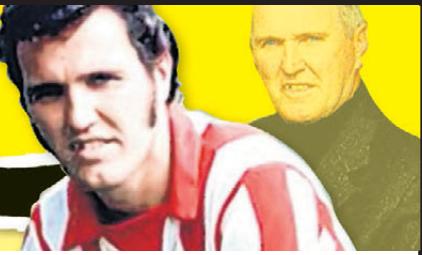
Maybe it's time for a rethink to come up with something less risky and that is more sport specific.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's

EXCLUSIVE

column on all things football



Future looking bright at Anfield under Klopp

AFTER successfully seeing off Borussia Dortmund in dramatic fashion in the Europa League, as well as treating their fans to a goal scoring feast down at Anfield across the past month or so, Liverpool look to have discovered a certain new verve under Jurgen Klopp which has been painfully missing on Merseyside for quite some time.

Although the former Bundesliga manager may have failed to truly lift the Reds' domestic spirits at the first time of asking this season, this is a team that could still win the Europa League outright and end the 2015/16 Premier League campaign on a relative high.

So then, as Liverpool haven't exactly served to set the English top-flight alight in recent years, have the Reds now finally shaken off the major shortcomings that became part and parcel of the Brendan Rodgers era on Merseyside?

Or does Klopp still have a vast amount of work to carry out in or to help Liverpool re-establish their once untouchable status in the English game?

Well, although the club have indeed blown hot and cold for much of the current campaign thus far, it really shouldn't take Columbo – or any of his equally perceptive counterparts in the fictional detective field – to notice the sheer difference in atmosphere under Liverpool's newly installed German tactician.

Watching Klopp soar into the air in front of the passionate Liverpool following has already become a recurring moment for all to take on board from this undoubtedly captivating domestic campaign.

It almost seems like something of an unrivalled combination when all is said and done, for although Klopp's somewhat ill-fated predecessor in the Anfield dugout certainly gave his all while operating on Merseyside, the relationship between the manager and the fans couldn't be any stronger right in the here and now.

That said, Liverpool's overall domestic results remain very much distinctly similar to what Brendan Rodgers would have likely achieved had he not been forced to part ways with his former employers early into the season.

But as Jurgen Klopp clearly had little option but to deal with the disjointed – and in some parts, unsatisfactory – squad left to him by his Northern Irish predecessor, maybe such an outcome should perhaps arrive with little surprise.

Despite his promising start to life on Merseyside then, the former Borussia Dort-



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has enjoyed a strong first season at Anfield

mund manager has a lot to contend with at Anfield in the not too distant future – especially when it comes to sourcing the right players to take this historically successful club forward.

As Klopp has nonetheless excelled in this particular field in several seasons, the fans can now view the upcoming summer transfer period with a far more optimism and confidence in their current main man at the helm.

Klopp allowed Borussia Dortmund to continuously challenge the seemingly endless pots of wealth on offer at Bayern Munich, and his ability to blood young players and watch them blossom into up-and-coming stars remains something of a unique trait in today's current climate.

While the 48-year-old German coach has only just started the rebuilding process down at Anfield, the future certainly remains bright for Reds fans at this particular

stage in the proceedings.

So then, while the former Bundesliga favourite could admittedly serve to improve the Reds' current outlook even further next season, this is an outfit finally moving in the right direction.

Klopp is seemingly beginning to weave his recognizable managerial talents into the long-standing fabric that makes up Liverpool football club.

The best is arguably yet to come...

Eastleigh 0 Tranmere Rovers 1

Heartbreak for Spitfires as play-off bid hangs by thread

EASTLEIGH'S National League play-off bid is hanging by a gossamer thread after James Norwood's 87th minute header condemned the Spitfires to defeat at the Silverlake Stadium.

The Tranmere striker's decisive goal completed a black day for the Spitfires, with fellow top-five contenders Braintree winning 3-2 at Wrexham, *writes Paul McNamara*

Their defeat by the Merseysiders leaves Eastleigh needing to win at Woking next Saturday, while hoping for both Braintree and Tranmere to slip up.

To add to the Spitfires' woe, key men Luke Coulson and Andy Drury limped out of the action either side of the break.

Coulson headed over ten minutes in, when the midfielder reacted quickest to Lee Vaughan's clearance from Michael Green's long throw.

Ross Flitney then saved Jake Kirby's shot down to his left after Steve Jennings returned the ball forward from Drury's skied hack away from his box.

Eastleigh suffered the hammer blow of losing Coulson on 18 minutes following the midfielder's thundering challenge with Jennings. Josh Payne, returning from suspension, replaced the former Oxford City player.

And Flitney was promptly called on to preserve the stalemate. The initially hesitant Spitfires keeper stuck out a leg to deny Lois Maynard, after the winger had been released down the middle by Jennings' canny header.

With the home team struggling to locate any consistent attacking cohesion, a more direct route forward via Joe Partington's wonderful right-wing cross saw the burly figure of Steve McNulty nip in front of Matt Tubbs to head behind.

Flitney was soon back in the action, grabbing hold of a low free-kick hit by James Norwood after the striker had been baulked by Will Evans at the edge of the box.

The Spitfires were on the back foot immediately after the interval, Flitney dashing from his area to clear from in front of a chasing Kirby.

Green turned Liam Ridell's left-sided cross behind with Maynard waiting to pounce - and when Jai Reason could only help Jeff Hughes' subsequent corner towards his own goal, Evans was handily placed to clear.

Substitute Lee Cook tricked his way free of Hughes to fire an effort that Tranmere No 1 Scott Davies grabbed at the second attempt, but Chris Todd's side was short on chances.

Norwood had his gloriously executed 67th minute volleyed finish wiped out by a linesman's flag as the visitors stepped up a gear in pursuit of maximum points.

The striker soon had an opportunity to strike legitimately, only to be denied point blank by Flitney after the keeper had first parried away substitute Adam Mekki's dipping 20-



Action from Eastleigh v Tranmere



Action from Eastleigh v Tranmere

yard shot.

But then came a gilt-edged chance for the Spitfires' to pinch the points on 81 minutes. The outstanding Partington whipped in another delicious cross that found Reason totally unattended six-yards from goal. The attacker, however, headed straight at

keeper Davies, who clawed the ball away from his line.

And that spurned opportunity looked even more costly six minutes later.

Tranmere kept alive a free-kick into the Spitfires' box, with the ball sailing towards Norwood, who expertly

looped his header beyond Flitney and into the left corner of goal.

Payne's dipping stoppage time strike brushed the roof of Davies' net and Evans, now operating as an auxiliary centre forward, drilled over from 18-yards with the last kick of a heartbreaking afternoon.

City hit four at Stoke

MANUEL PELLEGRINI praised his Manchester City side after they warmed up for the Champions League semi-final with Real Madrid by thumping Stoke.

With one of the biggest games in the club's history to come on Tuesday, City could have been forgiven for taking their eye off the ball in the league.

But they could not afford another slip-up after the midweek draw with Newcastle and the 4-0 victory at the Etihad Stadium moved them closer to securing a top-four spot.

Manager Pellegrini said: "It was very important to have our mind focused on this game and not on Tuesday.

"We did exactly the same before (the Champions League quarter-final against) PSG, we played a good game against Bournemouth. That is the best way. I always say a big team must be able to have their minds in both competitions."

City dominated the opening stages without really threatening until Fernando headed in Jesus Navas' corner in the 35th minute.

Eight minutes later Sergio Aguero netted the second from the penalty spot after Ryan Shawcross had pulled back Kelechi Iheanacho.

The Nigerian teenager took centre stage after the break, scoring in the 64th and 74th minutes on his fourth Premier League start.

Pellegrini made several changes to his side with Madrid in mind, resting Vincent Kompany, Fernandinho and Kevin De Bruyne.

The only real moment of concern for the City boss came when Yaya Toure went down holding his thigh late in the game, and Pellegrini confirmed his fitness will need to be checked.

The Chilean said: "We play eight games in 30 days so it's very important to have some rotations. Fernanda has a little pain in his knee and I didn't want him to finish. Kun (Aguero) is playing all the games. I didn't want him to finish."

"Fernando, I don't think he will have any problem. Yaya, maybe the doctor will see him tomorrow. He finished with a muscle injury."

"For Vincent, it was a risk to play two games in 72 hours. It was better for him not to take a risk. He is okay, he worked this morning."

Iheanacho once again seized his chance to impress, taking his tally of goals for the season to 11.

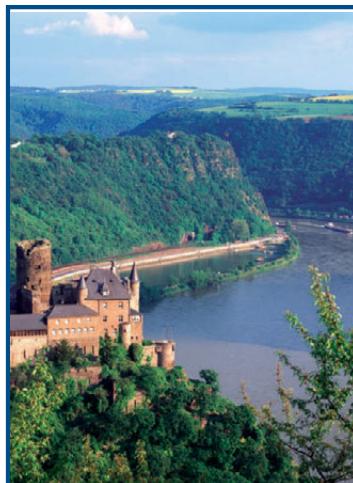
The 19-year-old was a late substitute against Paris St Germain, and Pellegrini did not rule him out of playing a part against Madrid.

"It was a very important contribution," said Pellegrini. "Kelechi will have an important role in this club in the next years."

Non league FOOTBALL



Fans before the Eastleigh v Tranmere match



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Non league FOOTBALL



Pat McManus.

McManus: A lack of infrastructure has cost us in last two years

THE launch of under-18 and development teams at Brockenhurst can't come soon enough for first-team manager Pat McManus.

For two years running, the Badgers have enjoyed a promising start to the season only to fall away due to lack of squad depth.

But with Wyvern Combination and Southampton Youth League sides being launched next season, McManus is confident Brock's 'skeleton' squad days are over.

"I went to the first of our under-18 trials last Sunday and it was quite promising," he said. "Having good young lads at the club will help us no end. For the last two seasons we've been suffering due to lack of infrastructure.

"We've had a lot of injuries and, at this time of year with all these games, we've been struggling to cope.

"The introduction of development and under-18 team means we can draft players in from there."

Last season Brock had looked well geared up for a top-half finish until injuries and unavailability threw them off course.

"We spent August through to January in the top eight, but once games started coming thick and fast our squad just wasn't deep enough and we dropped to 14th," said McManus.

"And, no doubt, we'll be 15th or so this season because we haven't got the infrastructure to cope with the number of games, injuries and work com-

mitments we've had.

"We made it to the semi-finals of the Southampton Senior Cup and Wessex League Cup, but went into both games under-strength. We had to bring in players who hadn't played for a month."

● More development squad/under-18 trials are being held at Grigg Lane tomorrow (April 24, 11am). Players should register interest by emailing lukehirst21@outlook.com - listing name, address, DoB and position.

Badgers boss welcomes the challenge posed by Whites

Breath of fresh air says McManus of 2016 champions

BROCKENHURST boss Pat McManus has welcomed Salisbury's short but sweet stay in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

When Brock held the Whites to an opening day 0-0 draw back on August 8, it looked as if the Wiltshire phoenix club would take time to settle – particularly when they were beaten 2-1 at home by Whitchurch three days later, writes Wendy Gee.

But Salisbury learned their lessons quickly and, by the time they met Brockenhurst again last Saturday, they had already been crowned champions with six games to spare.

This time McManus' Badgers could not keep them out as goals by Adam Kelly, Sam Wilson – his 35th of the season – and Matt Casey (own goal) carried the Whites to a 3-0 win – their 21st straight league victory.

Asked if he would miss having Steve Claridge's Whites around next term, McManus said: "I was never averse to them coming into the Wessex Premier and I think Salisbury have been good for the league. They've certainly boosted some bank balances with the crowds they bring in.

"They had a bit of a shaky start and needed to find their feet, which they did very quickly, but I always felt they were nailed on to win the league.

"It's been good for Wessex clubs to have Salisbury visit their grounds and it's also been good for Wessex players to be able to play in front of a big crowd at their place.

"With all due respect, some of the lads in this league are only ever destined to play Wessex football and they probably won't get the chance again to play in front of 600-800 people.

"Regardless of whether I'll miss having Salisbury around, I am sure the Wessex League will. And I'm just as sure that Southern League clubs are going to be pleased to have them."

Although Brock were ultimately



Brockenhurst's Mark Barker

well beaten at the Ray Mac, McManus took more positives than negatives.

While admitting the nature of the goals conceded was disappointing, he felt the Badgers competed well with a "skeleton" squad.

"I don't feel that upset to be honest," he said. "Conceding an own goal at the end was disappointing, but Salisbury's first goal emanated from our mistake – we had the ball and should have cleared – and their second was a miss-hit shot that fell kindly to their striker.

"Other than that, our goalkeeper Callum Maher didn't have a lot to do.

In the bigger scheme of things, Salisbury didn't score a good goal.

"They deserved to win, but 3-0 was a bit harsh.

"They had 80 per cent of possession, but we'd decided to surrender the majority of possession to them in any case and try and hit them on the break.

"We breached their defence on the counter-attack a few times and, with a bit more composure, we could have affected the game a bit more.

"Their goalkeeper (Charlie Searle) pulled off a great save from Mark Barker and we had a couple of pen-

alty appeals turned down – one for blatant handball. I'm pleased with the way my lads applied themselves based on the personnel we had available. "We only had 13 players, including my assistant Richard Morse.

"I'd like to have made some changes after an hour when it was still 1-0 but, with Scott Joyce, Jack Burrows and Matt Vokes all missing, I didn't have the strength in depth to do that.

"To go away and get a result in this league with the injuries we've got is a big ask – let alone to the champions and a side with the resources Salisbury have!"

Rawkins bags ten

POCKET-SIZED marksman Jake Rawkins is Totton & Eling's second highest scorer this season with ten goals – not a bad return from a player who has only made three starts for the Millers!

But having begun his T&E stay in prolific form, the dual-signed AFC Totton striker/wideman has been held back by a hamstring problem.

"Jake started like a train for us, scoring ten goals in three-and-a-half games," said chairman Andy Tipp.

"He's ever so quick and has a real eye for goal."

Until Rawkins' arrival, Sam House had been taking all the frontline plaudits for the Millers with 25 goals in 27 games.

But House has now left the Sydenhams One club to see the season out with Horncastle in the Premier Division.

Shade

"Sam wasn't as prolific when he left as he'd been earlier in the season and Jake put him in the shade when he arrived," said Tipp.

"The way he was going, I thought he might get into the (Division One) top-five scorers, but injury has held him back.

"I'd like to have seen how many Jake would have got if he'd played the rest of the season."

Jake is not the only member of the Rawkins family making his mark at Millers Park.

His younger brother Joe is also part of the squad.

"Joe's a striker/winger as well," said Tipp. "He's a bit taller than Jake, but not quite as stocky."



Jake Rawkins

Non league FOOTBALL



Javi Santafe-Vivo.



Folland Sports add more Spanish flair

FOLLAND Sports have welcomed another Spaniard into their midfield engine room.

Former Winchester City man Javi Santafe-Vivo has been joined by his cousin at Follands Park.

And, between them, Javi and Jorge Cervello-Vivo made quite an impression at Sholing last week, where the Planemakers suffered a slender 1-0 defeat.

"Jorge's come over from Spain and the pair of them ran the show at Sholing,"

said manager Dave Herbert.

"I think Jorge's played at a similar level to Santi in Spain and you could tell they'd played together before."

"The only thing is we've got a bit of a language barrier with Jorge and it's difficult to get the terminology across."

Santafe-Vivo went close to breaking the deadlock at Sholing when he sent a 35-yard effort looping over Ryan Gosney, but the Sholing goalkeeper acrobatically clawed it over.

The Boatmen grabbed the decider on

35 minutes when Barry Mason teed up Zach Glasspool to head in his first goal for the club since arriving from Winchester City.

The closest Follands came to levelling was right at the death when ex-Planemaker Gosney parried a fierce strike from Tony Wilkinson.

"We had a couple of Matt Andrews goals disallowed and Ryan Gosney, one of my best mates, didn't do us any favours either," rued Herbert. "He pulled off some absolute worldies."

Planemakers: If we go down, we'll bounce straight back

Boss says time in Wessex One would be short

DAVE Herbert did not inherit the easiest of jobs when he took over at Folland Sports at the end of August.

In fact that would be an understatement.

The Planemakers' former reserve-team boss and first-team coach was their third manager in the space of four turbulent months, following Dorset-based pair Jay Keating and Kevin Jackson into the Follands Park hot-seat.

The playing squad that had previously thrived under Danny Bowers and Dave Lewis had long since disbanded and the club were fighting for their survival, with American parent company GE Aviation considering closing down the Kings Avenue site.

Thankfully those closure fears have been allayed with a two-year extension on the ground but, short of a miracle, it looks as if the Planemakers will be plying their trade back in Sydenhams Wessex League Division One next term.

Last Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Sholing blocked all roads out of the Premier Division's bottom two, leaving them to battle it out with fellow strugglers Alresford Town to avoid picking up the wooden spoon.

Herbert said at the time of taking the job that he wished he had been appointed three weeks earlier, before players had been snapped up elsewhere.

He has done his best to manage against a backdrop of uncertainty this season but, ultimately, the challenge proved insurmountable—even for a man of his determination.

"I have got a lot of self-belief and I am always confident in what I do," he said.

"But taking over as late as I did is never easy and, partly, the decisions made by the club did not help."

"They could not release the news that the lease on the ground had been extended until it was too late."



Folland Sports boss Dave Herbert

"If that had come out straight away, we could have attracted some players in, but no-one wants to join a dead-end club thinking they are just going to see the season out."

"Now the news of the lease extension has come out, the task is a lot easier."

"We have got another two years in place and we will be looking to increase that."

"The budget (or lack of) has not helped but it will be nice to get some of my lads in next year and go out and try to win Wessex One if that is where we end up. We have done it be-

fore and we can do it again. We have talked about bringing in six or seven quality Wessex players."

"If we go down, we will be looking to come straight back up. But if we can find an escape route from relegation, we will have a side that can compete in the Premier Division."

Hopkins resigns

COLIN Hopkins quit as manager of mid-table Downton last weekend with three Sydenhams One games left to play.

The former goalkeeper had almost completed his second season in charge at Wick Lane.

Coach Mitch Blake also parted company with the Robins – a month after Colin Stainer had stood down as chairman.

Hopkins took over at the Downton helm from Jeff Softley following relegation from the Sydenhams Premier in 2014.

He was initially assisted by Jack Brooks before central defender Ben Smith took over as his right-hand man.

And it is 39-year-old Smith, 15 years a Robins, who has taken temporary charge for the tail end of the season.

He sat in the hot seat for the first time away at United Services Portsmouth on Monday where Downton earned a goalless draw.

The Wiltshire club were due to host East Cowes Vics today before ending the season at Fleet Spurs next Friday (April 29).

Smith, Downton's top scorer with 11 goals, said: "I will happily take charge of the club until the end of the season. Nothing fazes me."

Close friends

"They (Hopkins and Blake) remain close friends of mine and I would really like to thank them on a personal level and from all the players at Downton. They are two top blokes."

Rae Hughes, former secretary of Salisbury City and now first-team physio at National League South outfit Gosport Borough, will succeed Hopkins as first-team manager next season.

"I really look forward to welcoming Rae Hughes and to assisting him next year. I will continue to be player/assistant manager," confirmed Smith, owner of Downton-based firm Ben Smith Joinery.

"We are looking to retain the services of Mike Easterbrook as goalkeeping coach as well as all the current players."

"We are also looking for new sponsors if anyone is interested."



Departed Downton duo Colin Hopkins (left) and Mitch Blake (right).

Non league FOOTBALL



Town boss says: 'we'll enjoy the moment – for now'

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick said the "daunting prospect" of Vanarama National South football would ensure promotion celebrations were short-lived.

After 12 years in the hotseat, Killick guided the Dolphins back to Non-League's second tier for the first time in 25 years by sealing the Southern League title with a 3-0 win over Dunstable last weekend, *writes Andy Mitchell*.

But while the champagne flowed following a fifth championship in eight seasons, the long-serving manager struggled to stop thinking about the challenge that lies ahead.

Talking to The Pink's sister paper The (Bournemouth) Daily Echo, he said: "It's a daunting prospect when you see the likes of Basingstoke rooted to the bottom and Havant & Waterlooville struggling with an expensively-assembled squad.

"There is no point pretending, this will be the biggest step we have made and we are going to have to raise our levels and supplement things.

"That is for further down the line. We just want to enjoy the moment but, when I say that, I only mean we'll be celebrating for a few days.

"This has been the dream for some time.

Laughed off

"When we were in Wessex One, I didn't really want to be here. I felt I wanted to be in National South and now we can finally have a go at that."

With the job done, Killick released the shackles and laughed off claims made by Redditch United counterpart Liam McDonald over Poole's spending power.

At the height of the controversy that saw the Reds deducted three points for

fielding two suspended players in a match they had won, McDonald said "the likes of Poole, Leamington, Weymouth and Kettering have double, if not treble, our budget".

Killick smiled: "The big-spending stuff makes me chuckle really.

"I am pretty convinced I know the reality of the situation and how things compare with other teams and feel that makes our achievement even more remarkable.

"Just before deadline day Redditch signed a couple of players and managed to bring in Sam Merson from Biggleswade.

"But I'm not particularly interested any more. People can say what they like, because I know how we have had to fight for everything we have in terms of bringing in money and assembling the squad."



Tom Killick

Gillespie: I feel I owe Poole so much



FORMER Eastleigh and AFC Totton hitman Richard Gillespie admits he "owes Poole Town a full season".

He also believes the newly-crowned Southern League champions can achieve a top-half finish in the Vanarama National League South.

The injury-plagued hitman played only his sixth league match since September on Saturday as the Dolphins set the seal on the Premier Division title by beating Dunstable 3-0.

Known as 'Mr Goals' for his free-scoring exploits across Hampshire, Gillespie's three seasons in Dorset have been beset by problems, limiting him to just 63 appearances in all

competitions.

And while he has still weighed in with an impressive 32 goals, he is desperate to enjoy an uninterrupted campaign as Poole embark on their journey into the unknown.

Thanking the Tatnall club for their support, Gillespie, who first made his name at Basingstoke, said: "Poole have been so nice to me, treated me very well and kept believing I will come back and score goals."

"That makes life easier when you're injured."

"But I do feel as though I have unfinished business here. I owe the club a full season and, hopefully, that will be next season."

"I could not have predicted what

happened this season. It all started at King's Lynn in September when I got that whack in the back and it put me out for much longer than I expected.

"When I did play, I felt like I made considerable contributions and, against Dunstable, I felt I played well considering I had been out for so long."

"It was a relief more than anything and now I just want to stay fit and get back to scoring goals."

Gillespie, who experienced non-League's second tier with Eastleigh, is adamant Poole will have nothing to fear in their new surroundings.

"Having played at both levels, there is a gap in terms of technical ability," he added.

"The Southern League is very hard to get out of because the players work so hard. They are big, physical lads who give 100 per cent. But in the National League, they have all that with greater technique."

"You have to be on your game every week. If you have an off-day, you get beaten by two or three in matches that you would get a draw out of in the Southern League."

"But the step up will suit us," he added. "We will play on better surfaces and at better grounds."

"Sometimes we came unstuck at places where it was more like rugby, so we should benefit in that respect."

"With a couple of additions, I think we will be in the top half."

Cherries cast eye over star Ashley

AFC BOURNEMOUTH are running the rule over a shining Non-League star.

Horley Town's Ashley Nadesan has caught the eye of Cherries' football operations chief John Yems after hitting 55 goals for the Combined Counties Premier Division outfit this season.

Nadesan, who works at McDonald's in Redhill, has attracted the attention of a number of pro clubs and spent last week at Millwall.

The 21-year-old lined up in a friendly for Bournemouth earlier this week against Icelandic side Fylkir, who are managed by former Portsmouth defender Hermann Hreidarsson.

He played 70 minutes as Cherries ran out 1-0 winners thanks to Sam Matthews's finely-taken free-kick at Canford Arena.

Nadesan was set to spend the rest of this week training with Stephen Purches's under-21 squad before heading to Norwich.

Nadesan's agent Darren Lewis told the Surrey Mirror: "Millwall really liked Ashley and wanted to sit down and talk, but they didn't want him to trial elsewhere."

"I'd already given my word that Ashley would go to Norwich and I think it's important for him to see what's out there and not be rushed into making a decision."

All told Nadesan has banged in 92 goals in two seasons with Horley, but he is not as prolific as Winchester City's Warren Bentley who has comfortably passed the 100 mark since joining the Citizens the summer before last.

Not only that, 25-year-old Bentley has scored more than half those goals playing a level up in the Southern One South & West.



Warren Bentley

Non league FOOTBALL



Salisbury celebrate winning the Sydenhams Wessex League title.

Claridge urges the Whites to treasure triumphant season

WESSEX title won, Salisbury boss Steve Claridge now has some serious thinking to do about preparing for Southern League football next season.

Given that the Whites were crowned Sydenhams Premier champions with six games to spare, he already has a very talented squad at his disposal.

"We've comfortably won a very difficult league and we've won it playing some great stuff and getting better and better throughout the season with a real good team spirit," he said.

"People have taken on board what we've tried to do and upped their standards and game."

"I'm still learning about some of them (Salisbury's players).

"It's finding out about what we've got and who can go to the next level."

Treasure

"At this stage, even if we stayed as we were, we would be a match for most people at the next level."

"We are better than anyone else (in the Wessex), we know that, which is why we are going to win the league by 20 points."

Claridge, who recently celebrated his 50th birthday, took his title-winning squad on a well-deserved night out last Saturday and has urged his players to treasure this success.

"You can play football for an awful long time and achieve absolutely nothing and win absolutely nothing, so moments like this you have to make the most of," he stressed.

Tight group

"It's a tight group and we are determined to enjoy ourselves as we've worked hard and deserve a bit of a break."

"Everybody, to a man, has been fantastic. I don't think anybody will



Salisbury celebrate winning the Sydenhams Wessex League title.

walk away from this season and think I haven't played my part.

"We've played some wonderful stuff on some dreadful pitches which aren't fit for purpose."

"No matter what anyone says, when you go into a league and there's only one up, there is always pressure."

Whites have one more piece of silverware to aim for in the Wiltshire Senior Cup final against Melksham Town at Chippenham's Hardenhuish Park HQ on Wednesday.

After that, they travel to AFC Portchester and Fareham Town in the league before closing the season

on Saturday, May 7 at home to Newport IoW.

"A big thank you to everyone who has helped, been involved, come to support us week-in-week-out like they have," said Claridge. "Credit to an awful lot of people at the club who work extremely hard."

Legends set to play

FORMER Salisbury City boss Mikey Harris will be among a host of familiar faces returning to the Ray Mac next month.

The new Salisbury club are hosting a feast of football on Sunday, May 8 – just 24 hours after lifting the Sydenhams Premier Division crown at their final home game against Newport IoW.

Centrepiece of the day will be a Salisbury Legends versus Salisbury Charity Stars match, kicking off at 3pm.

Harris – now youth team manager at Portsmouth – will be joined in the Legends side by ex-players Brian Dutton, Scott Bartlett, Aaron Cook, Declan McGregor, Danny Webb, Ian Chalk, Charlie Knight, Kevin Sawyer, Bobby Andrews and Wayne Turk.

Current Whites players Callum Hart, Adam Kelly and Robbie Matthews will also feature. Eastleigh's on-loan Portsmouth striker Matt Tubbs may also appear.

The Charity Stars team will include local journalists Joel Holt and Alex Rennie from The Salisbury Journal along with players from FC Salisbury United and Redlynch Seniors.

Before that there will be a 12.15pm showdown between Salisbury Supporters' Club and Birmingham Blaze, champions of the Gay Football Supporters Network National League.

Organiser Thom Belk said: "I came up with the idea of forming a Salisbury Legends match as many of our great players have never had the opportunity to say goodbye to the fans or get the appreciation they deserve from supporters for the contributions over the years."

Admission will be £5 adults, £1 children and proceeds raised from the event will go to the Claire Brown Neurological Treatment fund and Salisbury FC Supporters Club.

Gates open at 10am ahead of U10 matches featuring Salisbury FC, Porton and Alderbury (10.30am), followed by Salisbury U13s v Winchester U13s.

Potential match or match day programme sponsors should contact Belk on 075088 150588.



Mikey Harris

Non league FOOTBALL



'There's a lot of stuff going on the fans don't see' - Steve

STEVE Hollick is at a loss to know exactly why AFC Totton's season has imploded so dramatically over the last six weeks.

But, despite the team's abysmal end to the Southern One South & West campaign, which brought seven straight defeats prior to today's finale at Mangotsfield, he feels the club have made significant strides off the park, *writes Wendy Gee*.

"There's been a lot of stuff going on that the fans don't see - it's just a shame the first-team have been so inconsistent," said the Stags boss.

"We've brought new sponsorship in, we've made the link with Matt Le Tissier Natural Coaching and our reserves are looking quite strong for next year."

"This year has been a steep learning curve for me personally and for the whole club."

"I'm very fortunate to be in the position I'm in, running a club like Totton, and I get great backing from the chairman Andy Straker and Roy Edwards. They do everything they can to make my life easier and they don't get a lot of credit for what they do."

Voluntary

"We've got a lot of good people behind the scenes putting a lot of effort in and it's all voluntary."

"What the fans don't see is that there have been historical issues to readjust behind the scenes which have taken up more of my time than actually managing."

Hollick, though, does not need telling that matters on the pitch need improving next season.

Tuesday's 2-1 home defeat by Wimborne made it eight league games without a win - unacceptable for a squad of their quality.

"The performance against Wim-



Mark Gamble (blue) in action for AFC Totton.

borne tells the story of the season, we've been inconsistent all the way through," he reflected.

"It's a case of rolling up our sleeves and getting things sorted for next season."

"The league is going to be very strong next year and we're going to be competing for players locally."

"We've got to try and get guys in to improve the squad and, between myself and the coaches, we have to make sure that the mistakes we've made

this season are put right."

"We're the 'almost' guys at the moment - we've almost clicked and we've almost played well."

Hollick, meanwhile, has confirmed that striker Mark Gamble - signed on an 18-month contract from Wimborne Town in January - requires an operation in the summer.

Prior to joining the Stags, he had spent three months sidelined with two displaced foot bones and ankle ligament damage and has yet to get

back to his sharpshooting best.

"Mark's been for a scan and he needs a clean-out operation," said Hollick.

"It's nothing sinister but he's been advised to rest it completely and we don't want to aggravate it."

"It's a shame that someone of his quality has had to write this season off because of a bad injury."

"But I'm sure that after a good pre-season he will come back as sharp and lethal as he's always been."

Millers to hold day for Lucy

THE Sydenhams One season may be drawing to a close, but Totton & Eling are saving some energy for a good cause.

The Fratton Park legend made a guest appearance at a free football tournament for special needs schools from across Hampshire.

One of the biggest events of its kind in the country, it was staged by Reed Education in association with Eastleigh FC, Hampshire FA and Youth Sport Trust Project Ability.

Knight played over 800 games for Pompey.

The Millers are particularly keen to assist 13-year-old Rosewood pupil Lucy Talbot, who has profound special needs.

A T&E spokesman explained: "They rely on funding and from special events like this to help raise money for the school and Rose Road Association."

"Lucy is a fantastic girl and we have become friends with her through the years and would like to give something to her school and the association to help them with the care they need."

Sponsored run

The sponsored run starts at 10am from T&E's Millers Park HQ at Little Testwood Farm. The 6.56-kilometre course consists of two laps of the Testwood Lakes and then back to the ground.

In the afternoon there will be a charity football match (kick-off 1.30pm) between a team of managers and a Totton & Eling legends XI.

The family fun includes face painting, a children's bouncy castle, stalls and raffles. There will be food and drink available.

Totton & Eling Football Club

Girls only

HYTHE & Dibden Youth Football Club are staging a 'Girls Only' festival at Applemore Recreation Centre on Sunday, May 1 (1-3pm).

Catering for Year R to Year 6, the tournament costs £2 to be part of and will provide activities and training for all skill levels.

More information is available at www.hytheanddibdenyfc.co.uk

● Got a story for us? Email echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non league FOOTBALL



DOLPHINS GET THEIR HANDS ON THE SHIELD



POOLE Town got their hands on the Southern Premier Division winners' shield at long last on Tuesday night.

Having clinched the title with a 3-0 win over Dunstable last Saturday, the Dolphins repeated the scoreline against Bideford in midweek with goals

from Marvin Brooks, Alan Connell and Luke Burridge - and then celebrated with the trophy afterwards.

Spitfires aim to take their home ground to 'next level'

EASTLEIGH chairman Stewart Donald says it will likely take two to three years to get the club's Silverlake Stadium home "onto the next level."

In the meantime, the Spitfires will be submitting additional plans to improve facilities at the clubhouse end of the ground during the close season.

They involve removing the portable buildings currently in use and erecting a new, permanent building next to the existing clubhouse, which will also be redesigned.

Donald, who intends submitting the plans to the council this month with a view to starting work in June, explained: "The reality is that we are unlikely to be able to start work on the West Stand and the two corners on the west side until well into the summer and, therefore, we are submitting additional plans that can be implemented in the close-season to improve facilities."

"We are planning to redevelop the clubhouse and extend it on two floors the length of the North Stand. The facility will include a new club shop, executive club, club offices, police control room and further corporate facilities."

"It will mean a massive increase in our capacity to feed and water people in nice surroundings."

"It should enable us to offer a much better experience and it will mark the



Eastleigh's James Constable in action at the clubhouse end.

start of the ground improvements."

Back in February, Eastleigh unveiled a multi-million-pound master-plan for a multi-purpose 9,000-seater stadium to go hand in hand with their ambitions to reach the Football League. These things take time, however, and Donald informed fans

in last week's matchday programme: "There is no doubt we are going to need some further consultation to implement our plans in full, but there is a lot of dialogue behind the scenes and it will not be too long before we can release an official document and plan."

"Subject to the council granting permission, it is likely to take two to three years for us to conclude all the necessary improvements."

"We will be liaising with the fans to ensure we try and deliver something we can all be proud of and that fully maximises the fans' experience."

Town turn full-time

BASINGSTOKE Town have announced they will be going full-time next season.

In a move similar to what Eastleigh attempted prior to Bridle Insurance's arrival, Town - due to be relegated from the National League South - will recruit some of the best young players released by professional clubs and mix them with a sprinkling of experienced individuals and products of the Basingstoke academy.

At the same time, the north Hampshire club have announced a partnership with SkyBet Championship side Queens Park Rangers which will see the pair regularly working together.

"We want to make this club sustainable without needing to pump money into it," explained manager Terry Brown, who took charge at the Camrose last month.

"This is a three-year project to build a team of young, hungry players, with three or four experienced players who will want to get their coaching badges."

"The idea is getting under-21 players released from the likes of Reading, Southampton, Bournemouth and the London clubs who want to get back into league football."

"Along the way we will sell a few, but we will also build a backbone of a side which is very exciting."

"Some players develop later and being released does not make them a bad player."

"It may mean the club has three right-backs and does not need another. Often there is not a lot between any of the players."

Brown is also keen to dip into the Basingstoke Town Academy, which is still under the wing of former first-team boss Jason Bristow.

"Jason has done a superb job," he said. "I am really excited about working with young players every day."

"We may not be looking for promotion next season, but we are building something for the future."

Basingstoke have also struck up a partnership with Sydenhams League side Alton Town and will be using their brand new all-weather training facilities.



Terry Brown

Speed level with James in top flight list

EVERTON midfielder Gareth Barry equalled the record for Premier League starts when he took his place in the Merseyside derby on Wednesday.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the five most prolific starters since the era began in 1992.

David James - 571 starts: A £1million signing from Watford, James made his Liverpool debut at the very start of the Premier League era against Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest. He was a familiar face for the next 18 seasons, taking in spells at Aston Villa, West Ham, Manchester City and Portsmouth and keeping 169 clean sheets along the way - a record only recently beaten by Petr Cech.

First Premier League start, for Liverpool v Nottingham Forest, August 16 1992.

Gareth Barry - 571: A versatile performer whose Premier League career began in 1998 as a ball-playing defender at Aston Villa and has also taken in stints at left-back, left-midfield and, most frequently, midfield anchor. Played the vast majority of his football in 12 years at Villa before a big-money move to Manchester City and an ongoing Indian summer with Everton.

First Premier League start, for Aston



Everton's Gareth Barry made his 571st PL start at Anfield. Villa v Sheffield Wednesday, May 2 1998.

Frank Lampard - 546: Lampard made his name at boyhood club West Ham and signed off from English football with Manchester City, but his is a name forever linked with Chelsea, where he became the club's record goalscorer. For a man whose eye for goal was so essential to his game, he fittingly netted in his final outing against Saints in May 2015.

First Premier League start, for West Ham v Arsenal, August 17 1996.

Ryan Giggs - 522: The definitive player of the Premier League era and the symbol of Manchester United's rise to dominance. Giggs had already broken into the United side in the old First Division and went on to claim 13 titles, racking up a staggering 46,433 minutes of Premier League football.

First Premier League start, v Sheffield United, August 15 1992.

Gary Speed - 521: When Speed lined up on the first day of the newly-formed Premier League, he did so as part of a Leeds side who had won the previous season's title. He later played for Everton, Newcastle and Bolton.

First Premier League start, v Wimbledon, August 15 1992.

Football will take a back seat

WINCHESTER City FC defender Jamie Thoroughgood is a very busy man.

He has spent this season juggling a semi professional football career with the Southern League Division 1 (South & West) promotion chasers with his hectic life as a junior doctor.

Last week, in the first of an exclusive two-part interview with Paul McNamara, Thoroughgood talked about the pressures of his work and his sporting childhood which took in a Twickenham schools rugby cup final win.

Here is the concluding part of the interview ...

Thoroughgood's front foot approach to life, his unabashed positive outlook, is best characterised by his attitude to learning his trade.

"Going onto the wards is your own active learning, almost an apprenticeship," he says. "You have to be proactive. If you're not learning a lot on a ward on a particular day then you have to go away and get your head in the books. Or if you're not learning a lot from the other doctors one day, then what about going on a phlebotomy round, or putting some cannulas in?

"You do have to go out of your way to try and learn when you are in that environment. It would be easy to get swallowed up and think 'just because I'm following somebody around I must be learning'."

Industrial action

Following people isn't what Thoroughgood does. His views on the junior doctors' strikes, and in particular the first full walkout (when, unlike with previous industrial action, junior doctors will not provide emergency care) in the 68-year history of the NHS, planned for April 26-27, are the result of an informed mind.

But a mind also prepared to bow to the knowledge and experience of more worldly-wise colleagues. In short, Thoroughgood balances his opinions with the same precision he applies to his wider life.

"As junior doctors we all want to help patients," he says. "I want to make sure I can do the best for my patients. There's not a day when I go home and don't think about them.

"Now we're having a contract imposed on us which junior doctors who are far more experienced than me think is unsafe and unfair.

"Some days I will see 12 or 13 patients by myself - if there are things I can't do I will ask someone else. There won't be that many doctors on the ground in a five-day week. So to stretch it over seven days, we feel a little bit victimised. Putting more junior doctors in the hospital isn't the answer to providing a seven day service.

"The soundbites that (Health Secretary) Jeremy Hunt comes out with, about stroke statistics (Hunt

claims stroke patients are 20% more likely to die at weekends) and increased mortality at weekends... we did a critical appraisal of one of the papers talking about the weekend effect.

Impact

"You can't draw the conclusions and quote the statistics from them that Jeremy Hunt is putting forward.

"I hope we don't lose public support. Whether the British Medical



Association (the doctors' and medical students' trade union) are going about it the right way or not, I don't know because I'm junior, I don't have the experience of this and how this will impact me.

"If we feel that striking is the right way to go forward then I will support my colleagues. I have struck in the past. I am reluctant and I am worried about the withdrawal of emergency care (during the full walkout).

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seat when I grow up!



Jamie Thoroughgood rising high for Winchester City.

"But I know our consultant colleagues will be in the hospital. They're excellent, incredibly supportive. If I can be reassured that patient care won't be compromised then I'll be striking with my colleagues. What we're doing is striking now to prevent a potentially unsafe situation in the future."

Thoroughgood also fears the consequences of overworked, tired senior registrars and surgeons being compelled to make life chang-

ing decisions.

Decisive moments in a footballing sphere, then, are relatively minor when matched up against daily hospital mechanics. Nevertheless, one of Thoroughgood's Winchester City teammates could imminently have a huge choice to make.

The day before this interview Warren Bentley was the subject of a BBC Sport article, championing the striker's 41 goal haul for the season.

It is a tally that outstrips any other player in England's top eight tiers. But is Bentley good enough to make the mighty jump up to the Football League?

"He is the best forward I've ever played with or against. He's intelligent. He comes off defenders. He's not the type of player I like to mark. I like someone who will stand with me and try and outmuscle me. He's got such a good first touch. His finishing is excellent as well."

Down to earth

"And he's a modest, down to earth guy. He leads by example. He's not loud on the pitch. But when he talks people listen. They see what he can do with a football and that he's knowledgeable about the game."

"Everyone has respect for him because of the way he conducts himself in the dressing room and around the club."

"He has all the technical ability to go higher. He needs a club to take a chance on him. He has an excellent career as a teacher. But like any of us, if we had the opportunity to give professional football a go and put our careers on hold, then I think we'd have to take it. And I think he would."

Thoroughgood is equally bullish concerning his team, who he considers capable of emerging triumphant from the season ending play-offs.

But how long can he keep this up?

"I want to play football for as long as I can - and for as long as I can continue to put it before other things. My family and my girlfriend (Emma, a research analyst for a company in London) are very supportive. If my situation changes, I'll have to reassess."

"I need to start thinking about post-graduate exams. A lot of medical conferences and extra things are on a Saturday. But I hate missing football. I'd only ever miss it for work."

Backward seat

"Football might take more of a backward seat when I start thinking about what I want to do when I grow up! If I want to be a consultant in a hospital, a GP, a surgeon."

Whatever path he chooses, Thoroughgood will follow it with the commitment and exuberance that have defined his 23 years, thus far.

"I just love talking to patients," he says. "I like looking after people. I loved my surgical block and I'm really enjoying my medical block. It's a bit early to know yet which direction I'll take."

"You want to be good at your job. If a consultant or a patient asks me a question I want to be able to answer it. You just want to be the best you can be."

Spending time with Jamie Thoroughgood is an enlightening experience, inspiring even.

For the man in question, his affect is all in a day's work.



Craig Feeney was on target at Slimbridge in midweek.

Prolific Bentley could be relieved of spot-kicks

WHEN it comes to scoring machines, Winchester City's Warren Bentley has been the best of the non-League bunch this season.

But with all still to play for in the Southern One South & West play-offs, the Citizens' 57-goal skipper and top gun might find himself relieved of penalty-taking duties.

Needling just one last point to secure fifth spot, it was job done for Winchester on Wednesday as they fought out a precious 1-1 draw at Slimbridge.

But it would have been a more comfortable evening had Bentley not missed the chance to make it 2-1 when his 56th-minute penalty was saved by Swans' keeper George Burton.

Fluffed his lines

It's not the first time the otherwise impeccable striker has fluffed his lines from 12 yards and, with so much at stake in the coming days, manager Paul Masters may elect to give someone else the job.

"Warren's missed a few penalties and I might have to take that responsibility off him. He's got enough pressure on him as it is," said the boss.

"We've spoken about it and we'll have another chat."

"(Promotion) could come down to penalties in the end and we need to look at it."

It was Bentley who set up Craig Feeney to equalise from close range at Slimbridge after Paul Fahy had put the Swans ahead.

That clinched City's fifth straight draw and Masters admitted: "We did stumble over the line a bit, but I never doubted we would get into the play-offs."

"Everyone we've played over the last month seems to have been right up for

it, which shows why this league is stronger than the Wesser."

"There are no easy games, other than (rock-bottom) Bashley, and Wednesday was a prime example of that."

Winchester have made the play-offs at the first time of asking after finishing runners-up to Sydenham Premier champions Petersfield last term.

They were not even promoted until mid-June when Flackwell Heath turned down the opportunity to join the S&W ranks.

"We were favourites to go down with the bookies at the beginning of the season, so this a great achievement for everyone involved," said Masters.

"I'm proud of the boys and we can go into the play-offs with confidence."

"In a one-off game, I wouldn't change my squad for anyone."

Flowing football

"People say we haven't been winning lately, but we haven't lost either other the penalty shoot-out with Havant & Waterlooville in the Senior Cup final."

"At the start of the season we were beating people with our flowing football and, as it's gone on, the lads have learned to scrap out results which is what you need at this level."

City were due to find out today who their play-off semi-final opponents will be.

They will travel to the second-placed team in midweek (date to be confirmed) - either Banbury United or Taunton Town.

● The Daily Echo and Sports Pink - always best for non league football coverage 12 months of the year.

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Winchester's Warren Bentley missed a penalty at Slimbridge.

Cherries' top flight success similar to Saints' first year

IN 2010/11, SAINTS WON PROMOTION FROM THE THIRD TIER OF ENGLISH FOOTBALL.

Two seasons later, the club had secured their Premier League survival after back-to-back elevations, writes **FREDDIE MOLYNEUX**.

A handful of players from the League One days were still key performers in the Premier League.

Rickie Lambert, Adam Lallana, Kelvin Davis, Jose Fonte and Morgan Schneiderlin had all shown they could go from being third-tier regulars to top-flight regulars in the space of a couple of years.

A sixth Saint, Jason Puncheon, had once been a regular in the third tier for the club before he fell out of favour under Nigel Adkins – only to then reignite his career once Saints were back in the Premier League after a seven-year absence.

It was a marvellous achievement – to stay up in the Premier League with the nucleus of the same side that had been in League One.

Now Saints' south coast rivals Bournemouth have achieved something very similar.

When the Cherries won promotion from League 1 in 2012/13, Tommy Elphick, Steve Cook, Simon Francis, Charlie Daniels, Harry Arter and Marc Pugh all started over 30 league games.

Winger Matt Ritchie arrived from Swindon in January 2013 and was a regular in the run-in.

Remarkably, six of those seven players have appeared in more than 20 of Bournemouth's Premier League games in their amazing debut season rubbing shoulders with England's elite clubs.

The only exception is Elphick, and he would surely have played more than 20 had he not suffered a serious injury back in September.

That makes Eddie Howe's achievement in not only getting Cherries to the promised land of the Premier League, but actually keeping them there against the odds, even more remarkable.

He won't win the manager of the season award – that is surely destined to go to Claudio Ranieri – but the fact he has kept Cherries up (with more than a month of the season left) with a large number of his third division promotion-winning team is truly phenomenal.

Francis, signed from Charlton in the summer of 2012, is one of two ever presents in the Premier League – ex-Saints favourite Andrew Surman is the other – while Daniels and Ritchie have only missed one game and Cook two.

Pugh, though no longer a regular starter, has still appeared in 23 top flight games – including sub outings – while Arter has made 19 starts in a season hampered by injuries.

All those aforementioned players have fully rewarded Howe for the loyalty he has shown them.

And the fact the nucleus of the team has stayed intact throughout the club's meteoric rise must surely have helped in this unforgettable campaign.

These players' doing well was im-



Dusan Tadic and Charlie Daniels, right.



Simon Francis, left, in action against Saints striker Graziano Pelle.

portant but AFCB also needed some new blood if they were to compete at a high level.

When the transfer window slammed shut in January, I have to admit I was slightly worried for Bournemouth's safety.

They invested a fair bit of money in players that had yet to prove themselves in the Premier League.

Ex-Pompey defender Sylvan Distin was the only player with more than

one season of top flight experience, and I thought this was going to greatly hinder the Cherries.

How wrong I was.

Every single player has stepped up to the task and Howe has invested brilliantly with signings like Josh King (who has bagged six goals in his debut season), Benik Afobe and Max Gradel.

Those players have proved themselves to be more than good enough

for the elite league.

So not only do they have the old guard gelling with the new stars, Howe has even got some players who were on the fringes last year to play a huge part in this campaign.

Dan Gosling must have thought his Premier League career was over when he was sat on the bench for much of last year, but he's been an integral part of the Bournemouth midfield.

So has Junior Stanislas, who struggled for starts in the Championship last season but who has turned in some impressive performances in the Premier League and scored five goals.

You can analyse each individual player all you want but actually what makes Bournemouth such a great outfit is the team spirit and togetherness they have.

Just look at Leicester this season. Perhaps not the greatest technical side you're ever going to see, but a bit of hard graft and a ferocious will to win can get you a very long way.

Bournemouth have those attributes in abundance.

They top all the stats for distances covered, with Surman (another revived career) having run the furthest in the whole league, notching 188.8 miles prior to last Sunday's game with Liverpool.

Bournemouth have been nothing short of a revelation this season, showing bravery to continue with their cultured passing style even when they were going through a sticky spell.

Howe believes in his team and believes they can go toe to toe with the best.

Who can blame him?

NON LEAGUE FIXTURES

Monday, April 25

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Lympington Town v Brockenhurst, Moneyfields v Fawley, Puma Engineering Hampshire League

Senior Division: Hedge End Rangers v Bush Hill (6.30)

Tuesday, April 26

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
SOUTH
Truro v Whitehawk.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: St Neots v Chesham, Stratford v Cambridge City, SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Bournemouth Poppies, Andover Town v Team Solent, Fareham v Folland Sports, Horndean, Hamworthy Utd, Newport IoW v Sholing.
Division One: Hythe & Dibden v Pewsey Vale, Romsey v AFC Stoneham, Tadley Calleva v Totton & Eling, Puma Engineering Hampshire League
Combination East: AFC Petersfield v Liphook (6.30), Liss Athletic v Hayling Utd (6.30).

Wednesday, April 27

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Moneyfields.
Division One: Amesbury v Portland, Andover New Street v US Portsmouth, WILTSHIRE SENIOR CUP FINAL
Salisbury v Melksham Town, Puma Engineering Hampshire League

Senior Division (all 6.30): Baffins Milton Rovers v Headley Utd, Bush Hill v Winchester Castle, Clanfield v Paulsgrove, Hedge End Rangers v Stockbridge.

Thursday, April 28

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
SOUTH
Havant & Waterlooville v Truro, SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Cowes Sports v Newport IoW, Fareham v Bemerton HH, Horndean v Team Solent, Sholing v Blackfield & Langley.
Division One: Hythe & Dibden v Tadley Calleva, Totton & Eling v Christchurch, ALDERSHOT SENIOR CUP
Semi-final: Fleet Town v Camberley Town.

Friday, April 29

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Division One: Fleet Spurs v Downton, HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP FINAL
Bournemouth Manor v Otterbourne

Saturday, April 30

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
(all 5.30pm kick-offs) Barrow v Wrexham, Braintree v Altrincham, Bromley v Aldershot, Cheltenham v Lincoln, Chester v Gateshead, Dover v Forest Green, FC Halifax v Macclesfield, Guiseley v Torquay, Southport v Kidderminster, Trammere v Grimsby, Welling v Boreham Wood, Woking v Eastleigh.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
SOUTH

Bath City v Margate, Chelmsford v Basingstoke, Ebbsfleet v Eastbourne Borough, Gosport Borough v Hayes & Yeading, Woking & Waterlooville v Weston-super-Mare, Hemel Hempstead v Whitehawk, Maidenhead v Concord, Maidstone v Bishops Stortford, Oxford City v Sutton, St Albans v Darford, Truro v Wealdstone.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Salisbury, Alresford v Newport IoW, Andover v Fareham, Brockenhurst v Cowes Sports, Fawley AFC v Sholing, Hamworthy Utd v Folland Sports, Horndean v Bemerton HH, Verwood v Lympington Town, Wimborne.

Division One: Alton v Christchurch, Amesbury v Tadley Calleva, East Cowes v AFC Stoneham, Laverstock & Ford v Hythe & Dibden, Portland v Totton & Eling, Ringwood v Andover NS, Romsey v Pewsey Vale.

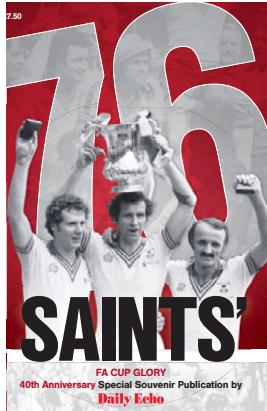
PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP

Semi-final: Baffins Milton Rovers v Moneyfields.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE

Senior Division: Bush Hill v Colden Common, Fleetlands v Winchester Castle, Headley v Hedge End Rangers, Liphook v Infinity, QK Southampton v Clanfield.

Division One: AFC Petersfield v Hayling Utd, Andover Lions v Four Marks.



Relive the cup-winning spirit of 1976!

THE Daily Echo is celebrating Saints' momentous FA Cup 1976 victory by releasing a special publication in celebration of the 40th anniversary of that day.

The glossy 84-page souvenir magazine contains a vast collection of never seen before pictures of that remarkable occasion, which reveals a candid new insight into the jubilant aftermath of Saints' 1-0 win over Manchester United at Wembley.

The heroes of the day have had their say, with the likes of all-time Saints top-scorer Mick Channon giving a first-hand

account of the cup run.

Channon talks in-depth about a sickness bug that swept the team and his hat-trick in the fifth round replay against West Bromwich Albion.

Hughie Fisher recalls his last-gasp goal in the third round that gave Saints a replay when all seemed lost against Aston Villa at The Dell, and David Peach tells all about that crucial penalty in the semi-final against Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge.

Accompanying the players' views is an exclusive foreword by then manager Lawrie

McMenemy, which sets the scene for that legendary run to Wembley, which ended in glory with THAT goal by the late Bobby Stokes against United.

On top of all of that, fans have had their say with varying and colourful tales of the day.

● The magazine will go on general sale from next Wednesday (April 20) in all local independent newsagents and is available on pre-order now.

For enquiries and to place orders as from today, please email sarah.reilly@dailyecho.co.uk

Liverpool star fails drugs test

LIVERPOOL defender Mamadou Sakho has failed a drugs test and did not play against Newcastle on Saturday.

The alleged offence relates to the Reds' Europa League second-leg tie at Manchester United and is believed to concern a so-called 'fat-burning' substance.

It is understood the France international is highly likely to request his B sample be tested, with the deadline for that request set for Tuesday.

Sakho has not been suspended either by the club or UEFA, but it is understood that after discussion between the club's owners Fenway Sports Group, manager Jürgen Klopp and the player himself it was decided the centre-back should not play in the immediate future, even though he is still eligible for Premier League matches and Thursday's Europa League semi-final first leg in Villarreal.

Liverpool issued a brief statement confirming an apparent doping violation.

"Yesterday, Friday 22nd April 2016, a formal communication was received from UEFA stating that they are investigating a possible anti-doping rule violation by Mamadou Sakho," it said.

"The player will respond to UEFA on the matter. The player is currently not subject to any playing suspension."

"However, the club, in consultation with the player, has decided that while this process is followed the player will not be available for selection for matches."

"There will be no further comment at this time."

The club have been proactive in their response to the alleged doping violation - consulting fully with UEFA and the Football Association - and while Sakho is technically still available to play it was felt the best course of action was to withdraw the player from selection and it is understood Sakho himself was fully behind the decision.

There will be no disciplinary action for the club to face - that can only kick in if two players in same season are found to have had doping violations - and there is absolutely no risk to their continued participation in the Europa League.



Mamadou Sakho

Relive the celebrations for Saints' massive Cup victory

Parade for '76 heroes

SAINTS fans are being encouraged to gather at Southampton's Guildhall Square next Sunday for a 40th anniversary parade in celebration of the club's famous 1976 FA Cup victory.

The actual open-top bus that carried the winning team on a victory tour around the city after the momentous 1-0 win over Manchester United at Wembley has been restored to its original condition.

It will now feature in a throwback event to partly replicate the fanfare that greeted Lawrie McMenemy's side on that incredible day.

It will all take place before Saints take on Manchester City in the Premier League at 4.30pm at St Mary's.

Supporters are asked to gather in Guildhall Square where the bus and all the surviving members of the 1976 team will be in place from 2.45pm.

They will then, at around 3.20pm, start the parade towards St Mary's (see the route pictured) and make their way along Marine Parade to the stadium with the Southampton Albion Band leading them.

"Get to Guildhall Square to see the boys," said organiser Mike Osman. "It's a huge opportunity for everyone to come and see Lawrie and all the players."

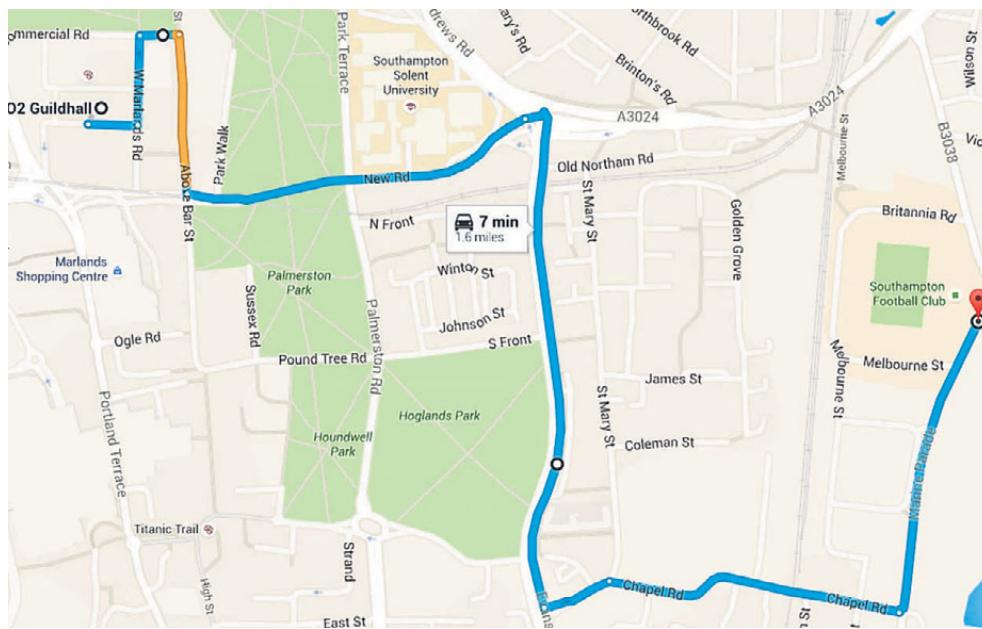
"Please come out and support the lads. It would be fantastic to see everyone."

It is all a part of the 40-year celebrations.

The event victory parade is followed by a special show at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton after Saints play City, as well as a golf day on April 27 and a gala dinner at St Mary's on April 29.

● The Mayflower show has been pushed back to 8pm - 30 minutes later than scheduled.

It will mean there is more time for fans to get to the theatre after Saints' match against Manchester City at St Mary's, which kicks off at 4.30pm on the same day.



The bus route for Saints' 1976 FA Cup winners next Sunday



Flashback to 1976 and Saints' FA Cup open-top bus celebrations

The best all-English duo in Premier League history?

TOTTENHAM'S Harry Kane and Dele Alli both scored a brace at Stoke on Monday night and have been key to the club's Premier League title challenge.

Are they on course to becoming the greatest all-English double act in the Premier League era?

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the duos who have forged fruitful partnerships down the years.

ANDY COLE AND PETER BEARDSLEY (NEWCASTLE)

Cole thrived in a two-striker system at Manchester United alongside Dwight Yorke and even Teddy Sheringham, whom he famously did not speak to away from the pitch, yet it was at Newcastle with Beardsley where he really came of age. The two arrived on Tyneside within six months of each other and, in their only full campaign together, they accrued a remarkable 55 league goals between them despite the club only finishing third in the final standings of a 22-team league. Cole was then surprisingly offloaded to United midway through the 1994-1995 season.

ALAN SHEARER AND CHRIS SUTTON (BLACKBURN)

The season after those Cole and Beardsley's exploits, the strike-duo known as 'SAS' was formed and contributed 49 goals to help deliver the top-flight title to east Lancashire 21 years ago. Injuries to Sutton and Shearer's £15million switch to hometown club Newcastle meant the partnership was quickly broken up but few pairs have been so successful over the course of a solitary campaign in terms of individual and collective success.

ALAN SHEARER AND LES



Tottenham Hotspur's Dele Alli and Harry Kane.

FERDINAND (NEWCASTLE)

This was another relationship involving Shearer that was brief but productive. The Premier League's all-time record scorer joined the Magpies in 1996 and scored 25 league goals in his first season, with Ferdinand weighing in with 16 himself. The highlight was a 5-0 drubbing of reigning champions Manchester United in October when Shearer created two, including one for Ferdinand, and scored one himself.

MICHAEL OWEN AND EMILE HESKEY (LIVERPOOL)

Heskey recently said of his relationship with Owen: "It was one of those partnerships that clicked straight away, even from that young age." It was a classic big man, little man, one-two punch that was cultivated in England's youth ranks and continued at Liverpool, where they won a treble of their own in 2001.

Their greatest hour was the Three Lions' 5-1 demolition of Germany when Owen scored a hat-trick and Heskey made one and added the fifth.

HARRY KANE AND DELE ALLI (TOTTENHAM)

Two of England's most exciting prospects have thrived under Mauricio Pochettino's guidance in north London, with 34 combined goals already during the current campaign. Kane has directly set up just one goal this term, while seven of Alli's nine assists have resulted in Kane scoring.

That is a far more one-sided arrangement than Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez's partnership, with their eight-goal assists tally split at five assists for Mahrez and three for Vardy.

At 22 and 20 respectively, time is on the side of Kane and Alli to take their partnership onto the next level for club and country.

Barton are six



Barton Peveril. Back (from left): Sean McKenna, Lewis Wild, Joe Reeves, Drew Smith, Matt Brewer. Front: Matt Cousins, Matt Bainbridge, Jamie Clark.



Richard Taunton's College: Back (from left): Tom Ladbury, Shay Hollingsworth, Jake Graham, Meelad Aslami, Callum Fitzherstowell, Freddie Molyneux. Front: Jake Boon, James Ferrier, Dylan Gain.



Lewis Wild, green, in action for Barton Peveril. Richard Taunton's (red) on the attack against Andover.

BARTON PEVERIL ARE HAMPSHIRE COLLEGES SIX-A-SIDE SOCCER CHAMPIONS FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING.

They came from behind to beat Andover 4-2, with Jamie Clarke (2), Lewis Wild and Sean McKenna on target.

BP earlier beat Totton 3-0 (Clarke, Matt Brewer, Sean McKenna) and

Havant 2-0 (Clarke 2) to reach the final. But they needed keeper Joe Reeves to make two penalty saves in the 1-0 win over Symonds to secure top place in the qualifying group.

Lewis Wild got the winner and was also on target in the 2-0 group win over Sparsholt (Matt Bainbridge).

The outstanding Sean McKenna

scored in the 1-1 draw with St Vincent.

The 16-team tournament saw big guns Farnborough, Itchen and colleges champions Peter Symonds all go out in the group stage.

After winning their group, Poole looked a good bet – Nick Aldridge scored twice in their 4-0 quarter-final win over St Vincent – but Andover beat them 2-0 to reach the final.



Barton



Richard

GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL

Cherries need to 'stay in the game'



Adam Bourner (left) and Richard Taunton's Callum Fitzhorswell. Andover's Kieron Edginton in action.



Kieran Edginton (10) scores against Richard Taunton's.



Peveril's Lewis Wilde rues a miss. Team-mate Matt Brewer, right, finds the target in the game against Totton College.



Callum Fitzhorswell rues a miss. Lewis Wilde, of Barton Peveril, in action against Totton College. Pix by Chris Moorhouse.

Cherries need to 'stay in the game'

MIDFIELDER Andrew Surman admits Cherries must stay in games for longer periods if they are to enjoy success against the Premier League's big guns.

Goals in quick succession from Liverpool's Roberto Firmino and Daniel Sturridge rocked Cherries shortly before the break at Vitality Stadium last Sunday.

Eddie Howe's side were left with a mountain to climb against the Europa League semi-finalists and matters could have got worse had Sturridge not twice hit the woodwork in the second half.

Familiar pattern

Tireless frontman Joshua King pulled one back in stoppage-time before centre-half Steve Cook headed onto the roof of the net in the dying embers, with referee Mike Jones sounding the final whistle moments later.

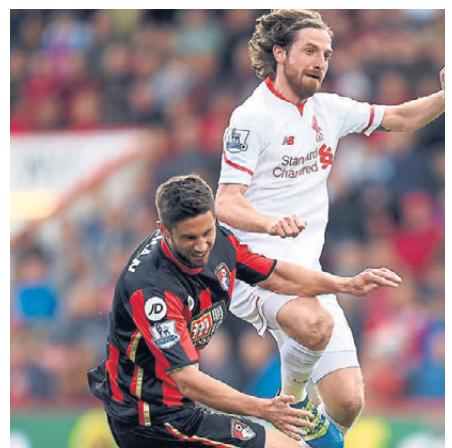
Former Saints star Surman – who made his competitive debut at St Mary's in January 2006 – felt the clash had swung on the minutes leading up to the interval and admitted events had followed a familiar recent pattern.

Cherries went 2-0 down inside 16 minutes at Tottenham at the end of last month and were 3-0 down inside 19 minutes against Manchester City, with Surman stating his team had in recent times not tested title-chasing sides as well as they might.

Surman said: "We probably didn't play as well as we have done and didn't give ourselves the best chance. There were not enough players at it."

"Having said that, we were still level after 40 minutes and if we could have got to half-time at 0-0, I think it could have been a completely different second half."

"Unfortunately, as was the case in three recent games against top sides, we were out of the game at half time. "When you are chasing games against teams like



AFC Bournemouth's Andrew Surman (left) and Liverpool's Joe Allen last Sunday.

Liverpool, Manchester City and Spurs, it's very difficult to get back into it and you leave yourself open to conceding more goals.

"They are good sides, counter-attacking teams who will hurt you, so it's always tough."

"Of course we're disappointed. We don't feel we gave ourselves the best chance and subsequently we lost the game."

Victory handed Liverpool their third straight success in all competitions and allowed the Merseysiders to rise to eighth in the standings, just five points behind Louis van Gaal's fifth-placed Manchester United.

Asked for his views on the secret to staying with top sides on the pitch, Surman added: "It's hard to put your finger on it."

"I didn't really feel Liverpool looked like scoring in the first half. They had a lot of the ball and they have good players but I felt we were in the game until they scored their first goal, even though we weren't playing at our best."

'Killed us'

"The second goal killed us. At 1-0, we were still in the game but conceding a second so quickly afterwards put the game a little bit beyond reach."

"Credit to the lads because we still had a go and created enough chances to get back into it but, unfortunately, the damage was done in the first half."

Hampshire Colleges spotlight



Kings'. Back (from left): Oli Hall, Alfie Glover, Jonnie Phillipson, Kanya Mtshweni, Nick Doubell, Alejandro Arguello, Will Thompson, James Pike, Conor Nolan, Joe Maybe. Front: Dan Holt, Charlie Wallbridge, Joe Sutherland, Jack Down, Ben Parkinson, Mark Macauley.



Romsey. Back (from left): Sam Tyas, George Ockwell, Markos Stewart, Alex Robinson, Aaron Whitmarsh, Jamie Marshall, Reghan Taylor, Levi Fellingham, Mitchell Wheeler, Callum Provan (coach). Front: Alex Haynes, Lewis Waterfield, Morgan Callaway, Navraj Lakhpuri, Kyle Payne, Zishan Ur-Rehman, Haydn Barnes.

Kings' end 20-year trophy wait

KINGS' claimed a 3-1 win over Romsey in the Hampshire Schools' FA Under-16 Cup – a third county soccer trophy of the season for the Winchester establishment.

They had previously won the Under-13 Boys Cup and the Under-16 Girls Trophy – an impressive haul Kings' can increase if the girls' win the England Schools Cup in Manchester next month.

Dan Holt, within 86 seconds of the kick-off, Jack Down and Joe Sutherland scored the goals against Romsey, writes *Mike Vimpany*.

Ironically, it was the first time since 1996 – the year former Saints and Chelsea star Wayne Bridge was at the school – Kings' had lifted the U16 county crown.

It was a fitting farewell for Chris Marwood's youngsters, who were playing their last game together before GCSEs and on to sixth form college, in the main Barton Peveril and Peter Symonds.

"No school reaches an U16 boys county cup final without talented players, great team spirit and determination," Marwood said.

Unfortunately, the eagerly anticipated final between the Eastleigh & Winchester district pair never rose to any great heights – a bumpy Test Park surface and a chill downfield wind saw that.

Kings', who were county champions as 12-year olds, could hardly have dreamed for a better start.

Regrouped

Dan Holt got the better of two defenders on the left and coolly eased the ball past keeper Aaron Whitmarsh.

Romsey, who enjoyed plenty of possession, regrouped and might have levelled soon after – Alex Haynes cutting the ball back from the right-hand byeline and the eye-catching Morgan Callaway forcing a low save from the Spaniard Ale Arguello.

Less than 30 seconds after the restart Romsey's defence was asleep as Jack Down doubled Kings' lead.

But within five minutes of going 2-0 down, Romsey found self belief and clawed a goal back.

Arguello, quick thinking and always alert, for once mis-read the situation and Lewis Waterfield took advantage to score.

Sadly, it was almost Waterfield's



Dan Holt (maroon) wheels away to celebrate his goal. Pictures by Allan Hutchings.



Cup final action: Kings' v Romsey. Pictures by Allan Hutchings.

final bit of the action as he suffered a painful injury to his right leg and was helped off.

Callaway, arguably the best player

on display, and Haynes continued to pull the strings in midfield, but Romsey weren't able to level.

In the closing stages sub Conor No-

lan sent a header from a corner just wide and, in stoppage time, Sutherland made it 3-1 from the spot after a trip by Kyle Pain.



Baggies: plenty to play for

WEST Brom defender Jonas Olsson insists the Baggies still have plenty to play for in the closing weeks of the season.

Tony Pulis' side were comfortably beaten 2-0 at Arsenal on Thursday night and face a swift return to north London to take on title-chasing Tottenham on Monday.

Having only taken one point from their last five Barclays Premier League outings, there have been suggestions West Brom's players are already winding down after accruing the 40 points many consider is enough to survive.

But Olsson, who came off the bench at half-time at the Emirates, is adamant the campaign is anything but over.

"It wasn't to be for us against Arsenal, but we still have four games and we have to do our very best for the fans who travel to watch us," he told the club's official website.

"It's important for the club and for the players to finish well to prepare for next season.

"There will be a few players in the squad who will be going to Euro 2016 so they will want to prepare in the best possible way for that.

"There is still a lot of things to play for.

"We have to dust ourselves off and come back to London on Monday to play Spurs."

A positive result for West Brom at White Hart Lane could hand the title to Leicester, but Pulis admits it will be a tough ask for his out-of-sorts side – even if he wants to see the Foxes lift the crown.

"It is going to be a tough game," he said.

"Spurs have been absolutely fantastic this year and the job he (Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino) has done there. He did a wonderful job when he went in at Southampton and he has carried that on at Tottenham.

"They have got a great team that plays together, they are very well coached and they have got some outstanding players.

"They will push Leicester all the way. As a football man I'd like to see Leicester win it but if they don't you couldn't pick a better team than Tottenham.

"Because it's someone different and I think it's great for English football."



Jonas Olsson (right)

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

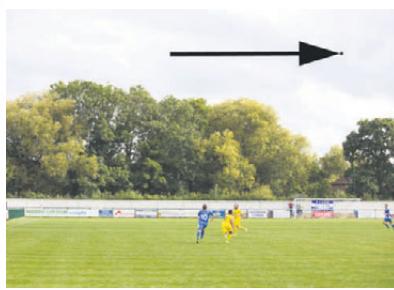
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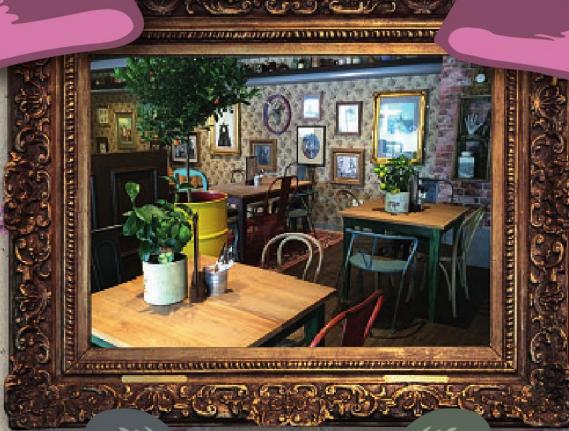
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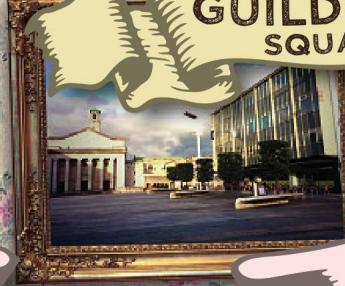
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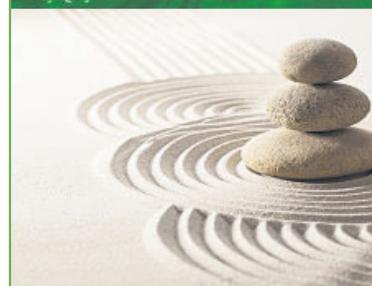
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SUNDAY LEAGUE
TABLES**

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West End	11	8	2	1	43	7	26
Sholing Utd	11	8	2	1	51	17	26
Ham Roll Call	11	6	2	3	39	16	20
K.R.L.	12	6	2	4	34	26	20
Titans	12	2	3	7	19	46	9
Bush Hill	11	3	0	8	16	46	9
Landguard	12	1	1	10	16	60	4

Senior Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Itchen Saints	9	7	2	0	44	18	23
Hedge End	10	4	2	4	29	32	14
Normansland	10	4	1	5	29	42	13
Yacht Tavern	8	3	2	3	27	26	11
Boyatt Wood	9	3	1	5	27	28	10
Cricketers	10	2	2	6	21	31	8

Junior Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chamberlayne	14	11	1	2	58	13	34
Lokomotive	15	8	3	4	32	21	27
Velmore	13	7	4	2	28	18	25
C.D.A.	16	7	4	5	38	30	25
Riverside	11	6	2	3	42	20	20
Bishopstoke	15	5	3	7	25	38	18
Bishops	14	5	2	7	38	56	17
Portswood	14	4	2	8	21	40	14
Test Valley	16	0	1	15	21	67	1

Junior 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ice Sports	12	10	1	1	55	10	31
Southbrook	12	8	1	3	41	24	25
Eastpoint	11	8	1	2	33	17	25
Marchwood	11	4	2	5	37	35	14
Curbridge	12	3	3	6	22	27	12
Dorchester	12	3	2	7	20	34	11
Aldermoor	12	0	0	12	13	74	0

Junior 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
King George	14	9	2	3	57	28	29
Bitterne	12	9	2	1	50	26	29
Waterside	10	9	0	1	66	14	27
Durley	12	8	1	3	35	17	25
Portside	13	5	1	7	42	50	16
Mottisfont	14	4	1	9	32	40	13
Royale M	13	2	2	9	22	48	8
Whitehart	14	0	1	13	13	94	1

Junior 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fawley R.B.L	14	13	1	0	62	21	40
Forest Home	15	9	1	5	38	31	28
Hunters Inn	13	9	0	4	48	20	27
Portswood	16	6	2	8	45	48	20
Lyndhurst	10	6	1	3	43	20	19
Sh Monks	13	5	2	6	20	33	17
Hedge End	12	3	4	5	21	33	13
Otter	16	3	2	11	26	43	11
Burridge	13	0	1	12	12	66	1

Junior 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portswood	14	11	1	2	64	18	34
Bridge Man	13	7	1	5	38	20	22
Unity	11	7	1	3	26	16	22
Spitfire	9	7	0	2	33	12	21
J.S.C	9	4	1	4	21	16	13
Sp Compass	12	3	2	7	15	41	11
Itchen Hawks	13	2	1	10	17	47	7
Abbotswood	13	1	3	9	10	54	6

Junior 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nursling	16	14	1	1	109	15	43
Winsor	14	13	1	0	73	16	40
Hedge End	17	10	1	6	62	42	31
Bannister Pk	18	9	2	7	59	56	29
Chamberlayne	14	7	1	6	41	36	22
Testwood	16	7	0	9	40	47	21
BW Dynamos	13	4	2	7	25	54	14
Riverside	18	4	2	12	28	65	14
Carnival	16	3	0	13	35	88	9
F.C. Woolston	14	1	2	11	20	73	5

Chamberlayne hit



Lyndhurst JFC celebrate with the Charlie Godden Trophy.

CHAMBERLAYNE Athletic staged a superb recovery to lift the City of Southampton Sunday League's DR Ryder Trophy.

Chamberlayne trailed 3-1 at half-time but hit back to force extra time at 3-3.

They then scored twice again in the extra half hour to run out 5-3 victors.

Darren Nutbeam (2), Mark Farmer, Louis Lemessier and Callum Fielder were on target, after Ted Aplin, Lee Portman and Tom Sage had put Riverside in command.

Lyndhurst JFC also got their hands on silverware after lifting the Charlie Godden Trophy.

After a goalless first half, Lyndhurst beat AFC Spitfire 2-1 with goals from man of the match Lee Stickland and Mike Huggett. Matt Coulthard replied.

In Junior Division 6 of the City of Southampton Sunday League, leaders Nursling blasted 22 goals in six days - including a 15-0 win against Bishop Waltham Dynamos.

Wade Wilson scored EIGHT of those goals.

Hapless

He was one of three players to score twice (Andrew Longland and Jamie Kingston the others) in a 7-0 win at Testwood Tornadoes, before bagging a double hat-trick against hapless Dynamos as Nursling took their goal tally for the season to 109.

Rory Hunter-Brown was also on target against Testwood, with Shaun New (3), Jamie Kingston-O'Connor (3), Andrew Longland (2) and Steve Frampton completing Dynamos' agony.

Winsor kept up the pressure on



Lyndhurst's Lee Stickland with his man of the match award.

Nursling with a 5-3 win against A.F.C. Hedge End Town.

Marcus Buchan scored twice as Winsor Sports registered their fifth successive win, with Liam Dwyer, Aaron Knappett

and Alex Clark completing the nap hand. Macaulay Smith, Lee Chudy and Josh Penny replied.

In Junior Division 5, J.S.C.'s Adam Beston and Louie Cross scored in a 2-1 win against second-placed Unity.

goals helped them thrash the only side below the 7-2. Adam Chatwin, Dan Stockley, Phil Leigh also netted.

James Neal twice replied for FC Woolston, who have two games in hand and the same goal difference (minus 53) as their nearest rivals.

Danny Longland scored four goals as Yacht Tavern won 5-3 against Cricketers Arms in the Senior Division to keep alive their hopes of finishing second. Connor Rowe also scored with John Cole (2) and Rob Edward replying.

Late winner

AFC Portswood's Peter Barlow

scored a late winner as rock-bottom Test Valley Spartans were beaten 2-1.

Barlow scored the only goal of the second half in the last few seconds to deny Spartans what would have been only their second point.

Tom Gudson also scored for Portswood, with John Bradford on target for Spartans.

Danny Longland scored four goals as Yacht Tavern won 5-3 against Cricketers Arms in the Senior Division to keep alive their hopes of finishing second. Connor Rowe also scored with John Cole (2) and Rob Edward replying.

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back to lift trophy



Tom Sage, above and right, scores Riverside's second goal.



Ted Aplin scores Riverside's third goal.



Chamberlayne celebrate their equaliser.



Chamberlayne celebrate after Darren Nutbeen's leveller.



Chamberlayne celebrate their second goal. All pictures by Stuart Martin.



Chamberlayne celebrate their second goal.



Chamberlayne celebrate their second goal.

The sporting headlines from 1926

THE Queen celebrated her 90th birthday this week.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of the key sporting events from the year of her birth, 1926.

Football

- Huddersfield Town became the first team to win the league title three times in a row, edging Arsenal by five points.

- Bolton became FA Cup champions with a 1-0 win over Manchester City in the fourth FA Cup final at the Empire (now Wembley) Stadium.

- Scotland won the Home Championship, winning all three matches against Wales, Ireland and England without conceding a goal.

Cricket

- England won the Ashes 1-0 at the Oval after the first four Tests were drawn. Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe both hit centuries.

- Lancashire ended a four-year stranglehold on the County Championship by Roses rivals Yorkshire.

- India, New Zealand and the West Indies were awarded Test status.

Tennis

- Great Britain's Kitty McKane Godfree won the women's Wimbledon championship for a second time. France's Jean Borotra took the men's title.

Rugby

- Ireland and Scotland shared rugby union's Five Nations Championship with three wins apiece, while France took the wooden spoon.

- Wigan claimed their third Rugby League Championship, while Swinton beat Oldham in the Challenge Cup final.

Boxing

- Gene Tunney upset Jack Dempsey to win the world heavyweight title on points in front of an estimated 120,000 fans in Philadelphia's Sesquicentennial Stadium.

Golf

- Amateur Bobby Jones became the first player to win both the Open Championship and US Open in the same year.

Horse racing

- William Watkinson became the first Australian jockey to win the Grand National, on Jack Horner, but he was dead within three weeks after a fall in Scotland.

Motor Racing

- The first British Grand Prix was staged at Brooklands in Surrey, organised by Henry Segrave. The French team of Louis Wagner and Robert Senechal were victorious as just three cars finished the race.

Rowing

- Cambridge beat Oxford in the annual Boat Race, victory number three in a 13-year streak for the light blue crew.



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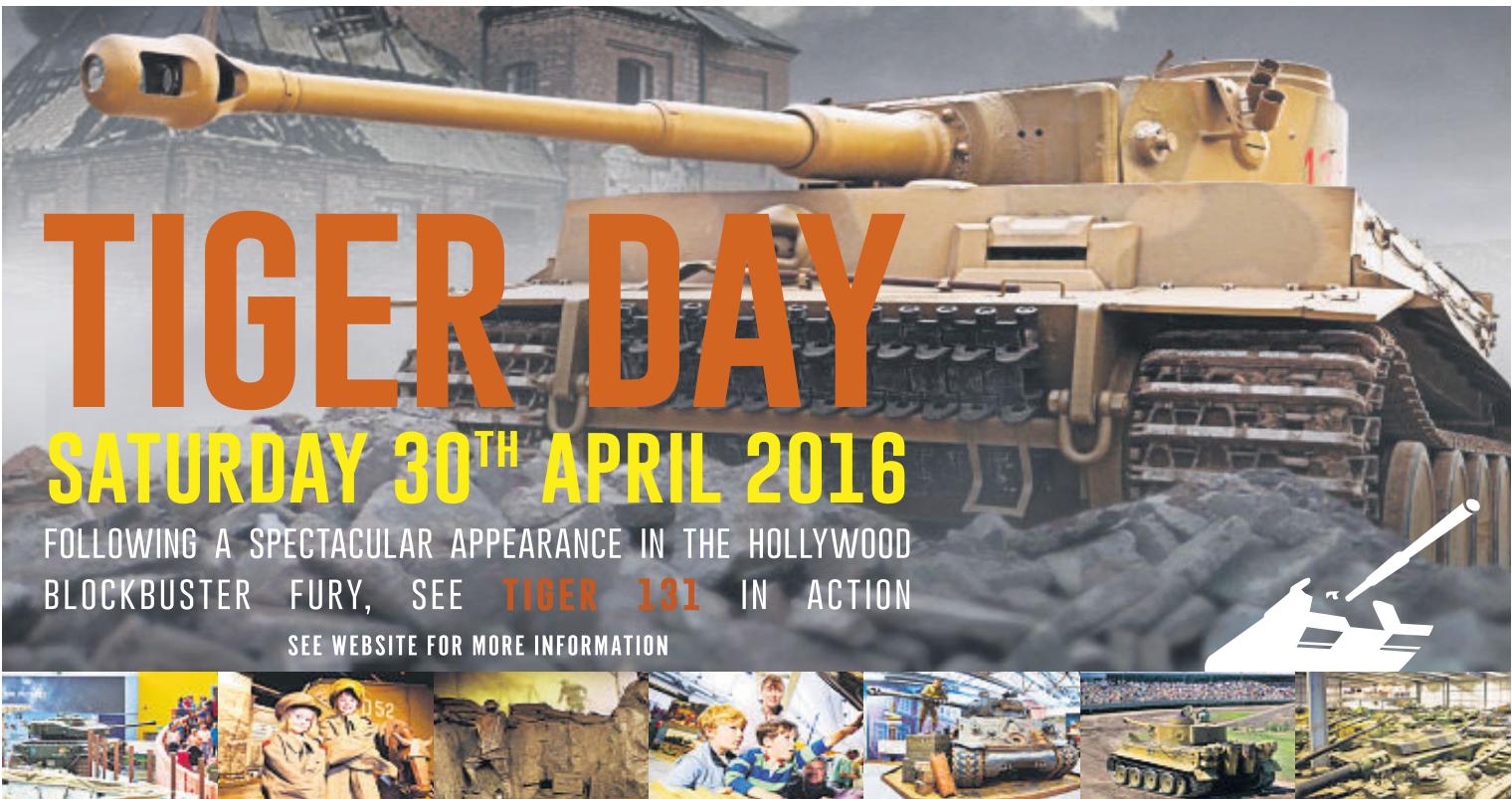


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'We were soft and sloppy against Hampshire' - Gale

SKIPPER Andrew Gale admits county champions Yorkshire were "soft and sloppy" at times as they opened their Specsavers Division One campaign with a stalemate against Hampshire.

Gale insists there will be no panic at Headingley after just one match in pursuit of a third successive title.

But after racking up 593 for nine declared and then reducing Hampshire to 141 for five by the end of day two, failing to bowl their depleted hosts out under the follow-on target and limping to 183 for eight declared themselves on the final evening, Yorkshire's start to the season is clearly a work in progress.

Gale cited the need for more substantial runs against the new ball - after four of the top six mustered only 20 between them even in Yorkshire's mammoth first innings.

He is confident their much-feared attack can bowl better too, and is hoping for a significant all-round improvement against Warwickshire next week.

"It's not panic stations - it's the first game of the season," said Gale.

"If this game has taught us anything, it's that you can't afford to slack off for a couple of sessions against any team in this division - so we'll have to make sure we're really on it."

"I didn't feel we slacked off on the third day; I just felt we weren't at our best."

"I thought we were just a bit sloppy and a bit soft."

"That's not a sign of the cricket we'd like to play."

"We've flagged it up, and it won't happen again."

Jonny Bairstow's first-innings double-hundred, and centuries too from opener Adam Lyth and Liam Plunkett from number eight, appeared to be a statement of Yorkshire's intent.

Thereafter, though, they made little progress as Hampshire - even with a raft of injuries, including the ankle Fidel Edwards damaged in the warm-up on the last morning - fought back.

James Vince and Sean Ervine both scored centuries as Hampshire eventually avoided the follow-on with some ease.

Gale added: "The first two days, we dominated; the last two, a lot of credit has to go to Hampshire as well for the way they fought back."

"They didn't lie down and die."

"But I thought from a bowling point of view, we were a little bit short and a little bit wide at times - and then today, we just weren't quite on it with the bat."

"We just expected to get a draw - and in the end, we came out of it happy with a draw really."

It was always a long shot Yorkshire could press for victory after two Hampshire hundreds on day three.

"I didn't think for a minute we'd probably have enough time left to set the game up," said Gale.



Sean Ervine was one of two Hampshire centurions at Headingley this week.



Andrew Gale

"Then as soon as we were two or three down, we just had to concentrate on getting a solid draw."

As for the future, he warns Yorkshire cannot leave it up to the prolific Bairstow to bail them

out with big hundreds every match - all the more so once he is away with England, from next month.

"There's going to come a period in the season when you can't rely on your Jonny Bairstows to keep standing up and making unbelievable contributions."

"The lad's playing a different game to the rest of us, I think."

"(But) we won't be able to rely at 40 for three on Jonny to come in and get a double-hundred."

"The first three partnerships, you know, at Headingley you've got to earn the right against the new ball."

"It is very, very difficult - as shown in this game - but you've got to find a way."

• Yorkshire may face another struggle to hold on to their dual

county championship-winning coach Jason Gillespie, if Australia try to recruit him at the end of this season.

Gillespie has led Yorkshire to successive titles, and was on the short-list last year to replace Peter Moores as England coach - a role eventually taken by his compatriot Trevor Bayliss.

Australia are currently without a bowling coach, following Craig McDermott's departure.

Gillespie's credentials, as a former fast bowler for his native country, are obvious - and Australia coach Darren Lehmann has confirmed he is sure to be in the running.

"Gillespie will certainly be at forefront," former Yorkshire batsman Lehmann said this week.

Vince does his England ambition no harm at all

SEVERAL first-choice England players, and others in the frame to join them this summer, were in action in the latest round of Specsavers County Championship games. Here, the Sports Pink assesses how they fared.

ALASTAIR COOK (Essex)

The England Test captain's choice of helmet may have overshadowed his actual day job, but after being dismissed for one in the first innings he hit back with an unbeaten century in the second.

SAM ROBSON (Middlesex)

Not seen in England colours since 2014, Robson made the strongest imaginable case for renewed attention, making a career-best 231 against Warwickshire and then following up with a second-innings 106 for good measure.

NICK COMPTON (Middlesex)

A modest outing at Lord's for England's incumbent number three. After watching Robson and Nick Gubbins put on 180 he fell for a first-ball duck.

Responded to that setback with 44 on the final day.

STEVEN FINN (Middlesex)

Only in the field for one innings the fit-again Finn took three for the 110, though his economy rate of 4.71 was on the high side.

IAN BELL (Warwickshire)

After kicking off his bid for a Test recall last week with a century, Bell made 14 in his only visit to the crease versus Middlesex.



Hampshire's James Vince.

STUART BROAD (Nottinghamshire)

The number one Test bowler in the world took three wickets but was overshadowed by new ball partner Jake Ball in a losing cause at Old Trafford.

ADAM LYTH (Yorkshire)

Another man eyeing Alex Hales' opening berth, Lyth made the most of national selector James Whitaker's appearance at Headingley with 111 on day one.

JONNY BAIRSTOW (Yorkshire)

Increasingly Bairstow looks a class above at county level. Hit 246 in just 270 deliveries against Hampshire but was prised out for five at his next visit.

LIAM PLUNKETT (Yorkshire)

Scored a brilliant maiden Championship hundred from number eight and took two for 75 on a surface not designed to assist the fast bowlers.

JAMES VINCE (Hampshire)

An alternative for Compton at number three, the Hampshire captain effectively blunted arguably the most incisive attack in county cricket at Headingley, coming away with an impressive 119.

JAMES ANDERSON (Lancashire)

Like his England colleague Broad, Anderson was a supporting player in the high-profile clash. Went wicketless in the first innings but picked up three for 29 in the second.

Title rivals dominate the PFA PL team of the season XI

TITLE rivals Leicester and Tottenham make up the majority of the PFA Premier League team of the year, with eight of the notional 11 coming from the two sides.

The team was due to be announced as standard at the PFA awards on Sunday, but the unveiling was brought forward.

Included in the side are Leicester quartet Wes Morgan, N'Golo Kante, Riyad Mahrez and Jamie Vardy, with Tottenham's Toby Alderweireld, Danny Rose, Dele Alli and Harry Kane also named.

The three remaining slots go to Manchester United stopper David De Gea, Arsenal full-back Hector Bellerin and West Ham's Dimitri Payet.

Arsenal's Mesut Ozil - shortlisted for the PFA Player award alongside Kane, Kante, Mahrez, Payet and Vardy - was omitted.

The Women's Super League side saw three players each from champions Chelsea and runners-up Manchester City named.

Chelsea's representatives were keeper Hedvig Lindahl, defender Niamh Fahey and winger Jo So-yun. City saw defender Lucy Bronze and midfield pair Jill Scott and Isobel Christiansen included.

Shared

Arsenal also had three players selected in the shape of Casey Stoney, Vicky Losada and Danielle Carter. Alex Greenwood was named after her season with Notts County, with Sunderland's Beth Mead making up the XI.

Four Burnley players are named in the Championship side - goalkeeper Tom Heaton, defender Will Keane, midfielder Joey Barton and striker Andre Gray - with two and a half from Middlesbrough.

The half comes from Daniel Ayala sharing his defensive shirt with Hull's Michael Dawson, although Adam Clayton and George Friend are named without dispute.

League One leaders Wigan have four inclusions, while in League Two, champions Northampton have three.

PFA teams of the year



Tottenham's ex-Saint Toby Alderweireld.

PREMIER LEAGUE

David De Gea (Man Utd); Hector Bellerin (Arsenal), Wes Morgan (Leicester), Toby Alderweireld (Tottenham), Danny Rose (Tottenham); Riyad Mahrez (Leicester), Dele Alli (Tottenham), N'Golo Kante (Leicester), Dimitri Payet (West Ham); Jamie Vardy (Leicester), Harry Kane (Tottenham).

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

Hedvig Lindahl (Chelsea); Lucy Bronze (Man City), Casey Stoney (Arsenal), Niamh Fahey (Chelsea), Alex Greenwood (Notts County, now Liverpool); Jo So-yun (Chelsea), Vicky Losada (Arsenal), Jill Scott (Man City), Isobel Christiansen (Chelsea); Beth Mead (Sunderland), Danielle Carter (Arsenal).

CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Tom Heaton (Burnley); Bruno (Brighton), Daniel Ayala/Michael Dawson (Middlesbrough/Hull), Will Keane (Burnley), George Friend (Middlesbrough); Adam Clayton (Middlesbrough), Alan Judge (Brentford), Joey Barton (Burnley), Barry Bannan (Sheff Wed), Andre Gray (Burnley), Ross McCormack (Fulham).

LEAGUE 1 TEAM

Jon McLaughlin (Bradford); Reece Wabara (Wigan), John Egan (Gillingham), Craig Morgan (Wigan), Rico Henry (Walsall); Yanic Wildschut (Wigan), Bradley Dack (Gillingham), Romaine Sawyers (Walsall), Mark Duffy (Burton); Will Grigg (Wigan), Adam Armstrong (Coventry).

LEAGUE 2 TEAM

Adam Smith (Northampton); George Baldock (Oxford), Curtis Nelson (Plymouth), Aaron Pierre (Wycombe), Joe Jacobson (Wycombe); Ricky Holmes (Northampton), John Joe O'Toole (Northampton), Matt Crooks (Accrington), Kemar Roofe (Oxford); Jay Simpson (Leyton Orient), Matty Taylor (Bristol Rovers).

TESTWAY YOUTH LEAGUE

Under-12 Div 1

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
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Upper CI Blues	12	10	1	1	40	31
Worthy	12	7	2	3	8	23
Salisbury City	12	5	2	5	11	17
Littleton	11	5	1	5	7	16
Tidworth	12	4	3	5	-7	15
Fordingbridge	12	4	0	8	-21	12
Braishfield	11	1	1	9	-38	4

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
--	---	---	---	---	----	-----

Lyndhurst	15	14	0	1	47	42
Whitchurch	16	13	0	3	78	39
Shipt Bellinger	16	11	1	4	69	34
Alderbury	15	10	1	4	25	31
Upper CI Royals	16	8	1	7	24	25
Porton	17	6	0	10	-34	19
CK Andover	14	5	1	8	-8	16
Littleton Leop	15	2	2	11	-67	8
Basing Shooters	16	1	2	13	-70	5
South Wonston	12	1	1	10	-64	4

Under-13 Division 1

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
--	---	---	---	---	----	-----

Sarum Youth	12	8	1	3	18	25
Andover Sh	12	7	2	3	17	23
Braishfield	13	7	1	5	1	22
CK Andover	9	6	0	3	11	18
Ludgershall	12	6	0	6	-4	18
Worthy	12	5	0	7	-17	15
Barton Stacey	13	3	2	8	-3	11
Winch Flyers	11	2	0	9	-23	6

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
--	---	---	---	---	----	-----

CSA 07 Youth	13	12	0	1	70	36
Laverstock	13	9	1	3	47	28
Fordingbridge	14	9	1	4	17	28
Alderbury	14	8	0	6	1	24
Broughton	14	7	0	7	0	21
Tidworth Typh	14	6	1	7	-9	19
Lyndhurst	14	1	1	12	-52	4
South Wonston	14	1	0	13	-74	3

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
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Durrington	13	12	1	0	64	37
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Alderbury	12	10	1	1	63	31
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Simply Soccer	12	8	0	4	16	24
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Whitchurch	12	7	0	5	38	21
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Vernham Dean	13	5	0	8	-30	15
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Romsey Tigers	12	4	0	8	-20	12
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Porton	13	3	0	10	-38	9
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Worthy	13	0	3	13	-90	0
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Under-14 Division 1

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
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Waltham Wolves	12	9	2	1	33	29
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Alderbury	12	7	3	2	26	24
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Braishfield	12	7	2	3	20	23
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Hatch Warren	13	6	2	5	-13	20
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Whitchurch	11	5	2	4	6	17
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Bemerton	11	4	2	5	0	14
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Lyndhurst	12	3	3	6	-12	12
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Clarendon	14	3	1	10	-30	10
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West Harnham	15	2	3	10	-30	9
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Division 2

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
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Michelmersh	12	12	0	4	36	36
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Amesbury	12	10	1	1	40	31
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Fordingbridge	14	8	2	4	34	26
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Shipt Bellinger	13	7	1	5	14	22
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South Wonston	13	4	1	8	-20	13
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Basingstoke	13	3	0	10	-39	9
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Worthy	13	2	2	9	-36	8
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CK Andover	14	2	1	11	-39	7
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Under-15 Division 1

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
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AFC Stoneham	14	11	2	1	83	35
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Salisbury City	10	9	0	1	62	27
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MFC Popley	10	7	1	2	58	22
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CK Andover	9	6	1	2	38	19
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Lyndhurst	9	5	3	1	18	18
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Littleton	11	4	1	6	-27	13
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Worthy	13	3	1	9	-47	10
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Sherf English	13	1	1	11	-71	4
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Whitchurch	13	0	0	13	-114	0
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	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
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YOUTH FOOTBALL TABLES 2015/16

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
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Shipt Bellinger	14	11	3	0	40	36
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Tidworth	14	9	3	2	28	30
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Basingstoke Sh	14	7	4	3	24	25
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Littleton Lions	13	7	2	4	30	23
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Clarendon	12	6	2	4	17	20
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Upper Clatford	14	3	2	9	-19	11
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Fordingbridge T	14	2	1	11	-38	7
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South Wonston	13	0	1	12	-82	1
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	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
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Beggarwood	12	10	2	0	50	32
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AFC Stoneham	12	10	1	1	37	31
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Porton	12	7	1	4	16	22
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Littleton	12	7	0	5	5	21
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Clarendon	12	3	0	9	-21	9
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Upper Clatford	12	1	10	-43	4
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Amesbury	12	1	10	-44	4
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	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
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Michelmersh	16	9	2	5	4	29
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Wonston	14	9	0	5	37	27
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Fordingbridge A	14	9	0	5	29	27
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Sarum Youth	15	8	2	5	22	26
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Sarum Youth	13	7	0	6	6	1
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Widow	13	7	0	4	3	25
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AFC Stoneham	14	5	4	5	19	19
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Widow	14	5	4	5	19	19
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QK Southampton	14	1	1	12	4	14
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	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
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Winchester Black	13	13	0	0	39	39
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Sholing	14	10	1	3	31	31
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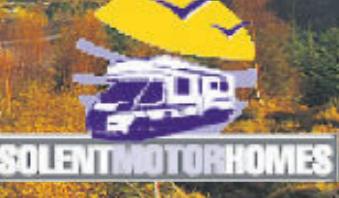
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No way to succeed for Norway stars

Celtic announced this week that Ronny Deila would leave his post as manager at the end of the season.

Norwegian players have enjoyed much success in British football, but the opposite has been the case for their managers.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at five who have failed to live up to expectations:

Ronny Deila

The Celtic boss will leave at the end of the season after two underwhelming campaigns in charge. He is likely to leave with two league titles, but they are all but a given in a Scottish Premiership shorn of Rangers. His only other success was the League Cup last term, while his record in Europe has been utterly woeful.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

The former Manchester United striker arrived at Cardiff in January 2014, but could not save the Bluebirds from relegation as they finished bottom of the Premier League. He left in September after the club's poor start to the Championship campaign.

Egil Olsen

The former Norway manager enjoyed a successful stint in charge of the



Outgoing Celtic Manager Ronny Deila.

national team from 1990 to 1998, but his solitary season in English football resulted in Wimbledon's relegation from the Premier League in 2000. The Dons have not returned to the top flight since.

Stale Solbakken

The one-time Wimbledon midfielder took over at Wolves after the club had been relegated to the Championship in 2012. He was sacked the following January with the club struggling in the league and having been knocked out of the FA Cup by then non-league Luton.

Henning Berg

A three-time Premier League title winner as a player, Berg lasted just 57 days of a three-year contract as Blackburn manager in 2012, tasting victory in just one Championship game.

● Ronny Deila has decided to leave Celtic. Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of the possible contenders to replace him.

DAVID MOYES

The Scot is the favourite with bookmakers to get the job - and is reportedly the board's number one candidate.

Continued on facing page

The centurions of the

SERGIO Aguero became the second fastest Premier League player to score 100 goals when he netted in Tuesday's 1-1 draw against Newcastle United.

Aguero became the 25th player to reach the three-figure milestone when he scored at St James Park.

100 PREMIER LEAGUE GOALS

1 Alan Shearer (Blackburn Rovers, Newcastle United) 260

2 Wayne Rooney (Everton, Manchester United) 192

3 Andy Cole (Newcastle United, Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers, Fulham, Manchester City, Portsmouth) 187

4 Frank Lampard (West Ham United, Chelsea, Manchester City) 177

5 Thierry Henry (Arsenal) 175

6 Robbie Fowler (Liverpool, Leeds United, Manchester City) 163

7 Michael Owen (Liverpool, Newcastle United, Manchester United, Stoke City) 150

8 Les Ferdinand (Queens Park Rangers, Newcastle United, Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham United, Leicester City, Bolton Wanderers) 149

9 Teddy Sheringham (Nottingham Forest, Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United, Portsmouth, West Ham United) 146

10 Robin van Persie (Arsenal, Manchester United) 144

11 Jermain Defoe (West Ham United, Portsmouth, Tottenham Hotspur, Sunderland) 141

12 Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Leeds United, Chelsea, Middlesbrough, Charlton Athletic) 127

13 Robbie Keane (Coventry City, Leeds United, Tottenham Hotspur, Liverpool, West Ham United, Aston Villa) 126

14 Nicolas Anelka (Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester City, Bolton Wanderers, Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion) 125

15 Dwight Yorke (Aston Villa, Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers, Birmingham City, Sunderland) 123

16 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool) 120

17 Ian Wright (Arsenal, West Ham United) 113



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero celebrated his milestone against Newcastle on Tuesday night



Crystal Palace's Emmanuel Adebayor needs just three more goals to join the centurions

18 Dion Dublin (Manchester United, Coventry City, Aston Villa) 111

19 Emile Heskey (Leicester City, Liverpool, Birmingham City, Wigan Athletic, Aston Villa) 110

20 Ryan Giggs (Manchester United) 109

21 Paul Scholes (Manchester United) 107

22 Darren Bent (Ipswich Town, Charlton Athletic, Tottenham Hot-

spur, Sunderland, Aston Villa, Fulham) 106

23 Didier Drogba (Chelsea) 104

24 Matt Le Tissier (Saints) 100

24 Sergio Agüero (Manchester

GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

One Premier League



Former Newcastle captain Alan Shearer tops the Premier League goalscoring charts, while Les Ferdinand, with his back to the camera, is also in the three figures for his goal tally



Sunderland's Jermain Defoe has 141 goals and is still going strong

City) 100

Here, the Sports Pink looks at those players who could reach the three-figure landmark next.

EMMANUEL ADEBAYOR
(Crystal Palace) 97
The Togo striker has scored Pre-

mier League goals for Arsenal, Manchester City and Tottenham and is now only three short of the 100 mark after his solitary Palace strike against Watford in February. Now 32, and only initially under contract with Palace until the end of the season, he might need another campaign in the top flight to

make it.

PETER CROUCH (Stoke) 96
Another striker very much in the veteran stage who has scored in the Premier League for six clubs - Aston Villa, Southampton, Liverpool, Portsmouth, Tottenham and Stoke. The 35-year-old is only four short

of his century, but doubts over his Stoke future may mean he does not get there.

GABRIEL AGBONLAHOR (Aston Villa) 73

Of players still active, Agbonlahor is third highest on the list of those with under 100 goals. But the odds must be high on him getting the 27 he needs for three figures, with Villa in the Championship next season and potential top-flight suitors probably put off by his current suspension.

DANIEL STURRIDGE (Liverpool) 67

The England striker has shown his deadly finishing skills at Manchester City, Chelsea, Bolton (loan) and Liverpool and, for his well-documented injuries, might have well hit the ton by now. Sturridge is still only 26, though, and will surely reach three figures if he can put his injury problems behind him.

ROMELU LUKAKU (Everton) 60

The Belgian powerhouse has scored 18 of his Premier League goals at Everton this season, netting 43 for the Toffees in total with another 17 coming in a West Brom loan spell. Only a big-money transfer abroad is likely to stop him reaching three figures in the next couple of seasons.

THEO WALCOTT (Arsenal) 55

The argument whether Walcott is a winger or a central striker has almost raged for as long as he has been at Arsenal. In those 10 years the ex-Saints starlet has managed 55 Premier League goals and, though at 27 he has time on his side to score another 45, it may well be that the attempt is somewhere away from the Emirates Stadium.

OLIVIER GIROUD (Arsenal) 53

Another Arsenal forward who has broken the 50-goal barrier during his four seasons in north London. But doubts persist whether the France international is the striker Arsenal need to deliver the Gunners a long-awaited title and getting to 100 goals might be beyond the 29-year-old.

CHRISTIAN BENTEKE (Liverpool) 49

The Belgium striker was on fire at Aston Villa with 42 goals in 89 league appearances but he has lost his way at Liverpool where he appears to have a very short shelf life under Jurgen Klopp. If the 25-year-old is to get the 51 goals he needs for three figures, it will almost certainly be away from Anfield.

HARRY KANE (Tottenham) 48

A long way back on the list right now - but who would back against the England striker being the next to 100 goals? Scored 21 in the league in his breakthrough season last year and already has 24 to his name in this campaign.

Celtic's next boss?

from facing page

Now 52, he started his playing career at Celtic in 1980 but left for Cambridge three years later. However, it is as a manager he is best known, managing Preston before a nine-year stint at Everton, which was followed by an ill-fated 10-month reign at Manchester United after Sir Alex Ferguson retired. Out of work since November, when a stint as boss of Real Sociedad ended after 364 days.

NEIL LENNON

The 44-year-old would have his supporters, having largely made a good impression in a four-year reign with the Hoops which ended less than two years ago. A former captain, he guided them to three Premier Leagues and two Scottish Cups, as well as successive appearances in the group stages of the Champions League. Available after an unsuccessful 17-month spell with struggling Bolton - and has admitted he would be interested in the job.

ROY KEANE

Self-confessed Celtic fan Keane, 44, ended his playing career with the club in 2006 but turned down the chance to succeed Lennon as boss because he did not feel they wanted him enough.



Roy Keane is assistant to Martin O'Neill with the Republic of Ireland. He then led Sunderland from the bottom of the Championship to the top but failed to make an impression with them in the Premier League, before an anticipated promotion challenge at Ipswich failed to materialise and he left after less than two years in the job. Currently assistant to former Hoops boss Martin O'Neill with the Republic of Ireland.

MICHAEL O'NEILL

In February, Deila was unimpressed with rumours suggesting his replacement would be the 46-year-old former Shamrock Rovers boss. O'Neill has impressed in leading Northern Ireland to their first European Championship, but that in itself could be an obstacle as his current focus is on Euro 2016, plus there are compensation issues with him currently serving a long contract with the Irish FA.

MALKY MCKAY

The 44-year-old is another to speak positively about the job recently and, like Moyes, available. The Scot led Cardiff to the Premier League in 2013 but was sacked after a dispute with club owner Vincent Tan. His next appointment, at Wigan, ended a little more than a year ago after five largely disappointing months.

A book that can change your life ...

The Great Bike Race

By Geoffrey Nicholson

Sportsbookofthemonth.com
price: £12.08 saving £0.91 on rrp

Recently, Velodrome Publishing launched their Vintage Velodrome series by publishing Geoffrey Nicholson's *The Great Bike Race*, one of the first English language accounts of the Tour de France in a book, one which, according to William Fotheringham, who penned the introduction, can change and even shape your life.

Yes, it's that good.

Nicholson's journalistic coverage of the 1976 Tour was among the first to be compared with that of more 'accomplished' writers who traditionally reported on serious matters such as politics or industry.

You sense that his descriptions of the Tour's most iconic locations are the longer, unedited versions of reports he submitted to his sports desk over crackly lone telephones in central France and here, the reader can enjoy



them in full.

"If Alpe d'Huez was a rigorous climb, with its mathematical progression of tight corners and steep inclines," he writes, "the Izoard is far more awesome, a rocky wilderness at 7,743 feet, which needs only a few bleached skulls at the roadside to complete its sense of desolation."

This sporting classic opens with the most captivating of sentences: "In my case," says Nicholson, "I came upon the Tour de France by way of Whitley Bay and Morecambe."

Readers are hooked from the start, but as Fotheringham points out, this is more than a collection of snappy one-liners.

The book's 'blend' of what Fotheringham calls the Tour's four core elements, "travelogue, anecdote, dramatis personae and narrative, is... presented with a perfect turn of phrase, the craftsmanship worn so lightly that a wry smile is ever present as you scan the page."

Nicholson is often (rightly) credited with laying the seeds from which cycling greats such as Wiggins and Hoy grew.

He was also responsible for something else: writing beautifully about a sport he held dear.

Here's Jonny ... in th

JONNY Bairstow entered the top 20 for highest ever Championship innings scored against Hampshire when he made 246 at Headingley this week.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the company he has joined.

1 Graeme Hick, 303 no for Worcestershire at the County Ground, Southampton, 1997

Simon Renshaw struck early when Worcestershire won the toss and chose to bat in an end of season encounter at Newlands Road.

But all that did was to bring in No 3 bat Graeme Hick.

Three years after his historic 405 not out at Taunton, Hick hammered an unbeaten 303 as Worcestershire rattled up 538-2 declared in 136 overs.

It was a new record innings against Hampshire in first class cricket, and remains so to this day.

Hick and Tom Moody (180 no out) shared an unbroken third wicket stand of 428.

Hampshire replied by making just nine more runs as a team than Hick had managed on his own.

Following on, Hampshire fared better – but only by one more run, 313 all out compared to 312 all out.

That left Worcestershire 80 to win and they knocked them off for the loss of one wicket. Hick was unbeaten on 28.

2 Percy Holmes, 302 not out for Yorkshire at Portsmouth, 1920

Hick's innings beat by just one run the score Holmes rattled up at US Portsmouth 77 years earlier.

Holmes and fellow opener Herbert Sutcliffe (131) put on 347 for the first wicket as Yorkshire posted a massive 585-3 declared.

That remained the Tykes' highest Championship score against Hampshire until Bairstow's heroics earlier this week at Headingley.

In reply, Rockley Wilson and Wilfred Rhodes shared all ten wickets as Hampshire were routed for 131.

Forced to follow on, they collapsed again to 119-7 before finally managing to reach 219.

That still left them embarrassed by an innings and 235 runs.

3 Lionel Palairet, 292 for Somerset at the County Ground, Southampton, 1896

Palairet fell eight runs short of becoming the first man to score a triple century against Hampshire.

Somerset posted 519 and eventually won by eight wickets after Hampshire had been forced to follow on.

4 Eddie Paynter, 291 for Lancashire at the County Ground, Southampton, 1938

Relying to Hampshire's 277 first innings, opener Paynter and Buddy Oldfield (135) ran riot as Lancashire posted 578-6 declared. They eventually won by an innings and 160 runs.



Hants ace Fidel breaks ankle playing football

HAMPSHIRE strike bowler Fidel Edwards faces a lengthy spell on the sidelines – after breaking his ankle while playing football, writes SIMON WALTER.

The former West Indies star, whose 45 wickets inspired last season's Great Escape, sustained the injury during a game with his Hampshire teammates on the Headingley outfield before the final day of the Specsavers County Championship draw against defending champions Yorkshire.

Hampshire coach Dale Benkenstein revealed: "We were only 45 seconds away from the end of the game when Fidel went to kick the ball."

"I was just about to get the mitts on for fielding practice when his foot got stuck in the turf and all his weight went over on it."

"There was no-one near him, it was a really freakish fall and there was a loud crack."

"It was clear it was bad

when he started calling out for T [Hampshire physio Thihan Chandromohan]."

Hampshire have confirmed in a statement that Edwards broke his right ankle.

He flew back from Leeds on Thursday morning before posting news of his injury on Instagram. He was seeing a specialist in Southampton on Friday.

Benkenstein, who spent the day as one of three substitute fielders, continued: "I feel really sorry for him, the team are giving him lots of support."

"We wish him all the best and hope it isn't as bad as we think."

Manchester United fan Edwards is not the first Hampshire player to be injured while playing football as part of the county's warm-up, a popular practice amongst players across the country.

Benkenstein continued: "The debate about playing football before games goes on but the players really

5 Len Hutton, 280 not out for Yorkshire at Sheffield, 1939

Relying to Hampshire's first innings 174 all out, Hutton and Herbert Sutcliffe (116) put on 315 for the first Yorkshire wicket.

That was Hampshire's sole success, as Hutton and Wilf Barber (91no) took the hosts to a huge 493-1 declared.

Hampshire were dismissed for 190 second time round to be routed by an innings and 129 runs.

6 Thomas Cook, 278 for Sussex

at Hove, 1930

Cook was unbeaten on 241 at the end of the first day as Sussex eventually reached 537. Hampshire batted out the draw.

7 Ernie Hayes, 276 for Surrey at The Oval, 1909

A remarkably spineless performance by Hampshire resulted in a whopping innings and 468 run thrashing.

Hayes and Jack Hobbs (205) put on 371 for the second wicket as the hosts romped to a massive 742 in

138 overs.

It was Hobbs' first ever first class double century – but not his last in a career which ended with him scoring 199 first class hundreds.

In reply, Hampshire slithered to 129 all out and, following on, 145 all out.

8 Frederick Bowley, 276, for Worcestershire at Dudley, 1914

Opener Bowley compiled what would be the highest score of his career as Worcestershire posted 493. Hampshire easily made the

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The all-time top 20!



love playing oldies against the young 'uns before play.

"It gets them going in the morning. I've seen players break collar bones during catching practice so you can't really criticise the method.

"But accidents like this always get flagged up."

Hampshire were already without Reece Topley (fractured hand), Ryan Stevenson (back), Gareth Berg (knee) and Liam Dawson, who strained his abdomen during the first day's play against Yorkshire.

Chris Wood also limped off during the first innings while Sean Ervine suffered a suspected fracture to his left index finger, a repeat of the injury that kept him out for much of last season, during his magnificent 123.

The one consolation for Hampshire was their outstanding comeback against Yorkshire and the fact their next game is not until May 1.

Wood will be fit for Mid-

dlesex and it is hoped Ervine is too (he has an X-ray today).

But Dawson is out for three weeks, Berg and Topley are unavailable till June and Stevenson is "nowhere near ready".

Benkenstein continued: "Luckily we've got ten days before we play Middlesex and were very encouraged by how we finished against Yorkshire.

A loan signing is a possibility but the likelihood is that Hampshire will give an opportunity to Brad Wheal and Mason Crane against Middlesex, when Jimmy Adams should return from an ankle injury.

"We're putting our heads together but at this time of year there's not much around," added Benkenstein. "If there's no one available who's world class we'll give opportunities to the likes of Wheal and Mason. We're hopeful we've got enough within our own ranks."

draw, reaching 147 without loss in their second innings.

9 Martin Love, 273 for Durham at The Riverside, 2003

The Australian plundered the highest score of the 21st century against Hampshire in 2003.

He hit 38 fours and two sixes in a 364-ball innings lasting 458 minutes as Durham powered to 515.

Hampshire lost by an innings and managing just 211 all out and 189 all out – in a season where they finished second bottom of the second tier of the Championship.

10 Andy Ducat, 271 for Surrey at the County Ground, Southampton, 1919

Ducat and Ernie Hayes (yes, him again) put Hampshire to the sword in a drawn Championship encounter.

Ducat and Hayes (153) put on 353 for the third Surrey wicket as the visitors piled up 579-4 declared.

Hampshire batted out the draw.

11 Len Hutton, 270 for Yorkshire at Dean Park, Bournemouth, 1947

Hutton appears for the second time in this list thanks to his 270 in Yorkshire's 464-5 declared total on the coast.

None of the other top five stayed long, but No 6 Norman Yardley came in to plunder 136 in a drawn encounter.

12 Tom Barling, 269 for Surrey at the County Ground, Southampton, 1933

A career best score from Barling, who appeared in 391 first class games for Surrey.

Hampshire rescued the draw

thanks to Phil Mead's unbeaten 105 in the second innings.

13 Sep Kinneir, 268 not out for Warwickshire at Edgbaston, 1911

Another career best innings, as the hosts reached 554-7. That was easily enough, as it turned out, as Hampshire collapsed to 132 all out and 126 all out to lose by an innings and 296 runs.

14 Micky Walford, 264 for Somerset at Weston-super-Mare, 1947

Relying to Hampshire's first innings of 280, Walford almost scored that many himself as Somerset reached 505-7 declared.

The game was eventually drawn.

15 Maurice Nicol, 262 not out for Worcestershire at Dean Park, Bournemouth, 1930

The visiting No 3 hit a career best double ton in a team total of 483-9 declared.

With opener George Brown hitting 113 in reply, and No 10 Stuart Boyes the second top scorer with 70, Hampshire replied with 313 in a drawn encounter.

16 Arthur Fagg, 257 for Kent at the County Ground, Southampton, 1936

Fagg and Frank Woolley (101) put on 211 for the second wicket as Kent were dismissed for 502.

Phil Mead struck 126 and skipper Neil McCorkell was out for 99 as Hampshire easily made the draw.

17 Mark Benson, 257 for Kent at the County Ground, Southampton, 1991

Fast forward 55 years and Benson compiled the same score as Fagg on the same ground while batting for the same county.

Chris Cowdrey was out for 97 as the visitors made 482 in a game eventually ruined by April showers.

18 Nick Knight, 255 not out for Warwickshire at Edgbaston, 2002

A remarkable game saw Knight carry his bat as the hosts were bowled out for 472.

They had been tottering on 259-9 before Alan Richardson (91) came to the crease to help Knight add 214 for the last wicket.

19 Johnny Bairstow, 246 for Yorkshire at Headingley, 2016

The England international blasted 29 fours and three sixes off 270 balls to help Yorkshire to a huge 593-9 declared total.

20 Matthew Maynard, 243 for Glamorgan at the County Ground, Southampton, 1991

Relying to Hampshire's 330, Maynard and fellow former England Test batsman Hugh Morris (131) dominated as the visitors piled up 504. Glamorgan ended up winning.

The greatest runner of them all ...

Endurance

The Extraordinary Life & Times of Emil Zatopek

By Rick Broadbent

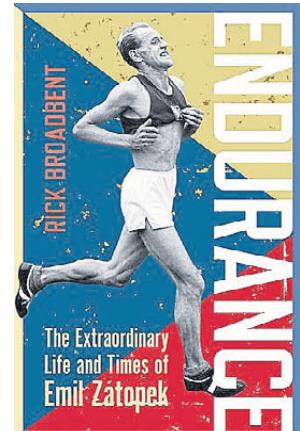
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There was a time when those wishing to delve into the sporting past were almost exclusively reliant upon catching a timely television documentary or, shock, horror, reading about it.

Nowadays, YouTube is the 'go-to' place for revisiting sporting history.

In amongst far-reaching, vertiginous mountain ranges of videoed dross and nonsense, it is possible to unearth snippets of outstanding sporting moments; few are better than clips of Emilie Zatopek, the Czech considered by many to be the greatest long-distance runner of all time. His running style, generously described as ungainly, was likened to a man wrestling an octopus on a conveyor belt.

Balding head tilted one side, face screwed up in pain, Zatopek often appeared to be in great distress, yet because he knew he trained harder than any of his opponents (he's credited with inventing interval training), he invariably came out on top. Born in 1922, one of seven children,



The front cover of 'Endurance'

Zatopek left school at 14 to work in a local shoe factory, although it would be another five years before his running ability was spotted.

In 1951, he became the first man to run 20km in under an hour; at the Helsinki Olympics the following year, he won the 5,000m, 10,000m and the marathon, setting Olympic records in all three.

An insight into Zatopek's political views came immediately before his departure for Helsinki after the father of Czech teammate Stanislav Jungwirth was imprisoned for 'political offences'. Jungwirth was simultaneously thrown off the team, whereupon Zatopek, who had won Olympic gold and silver in London four years previously, announced that: "If Standa does not go, nor will I."

In an oppressive communist state it was a brave move, but the authorities succumbed and allowed the pair to travel.

His card, however, was permanently marked. When Russian tanks rolled into Prague in 1968, Zatopek, then a lieutenant-colonel in the Czech army, was a high-profile protester. His liberal stance resulted in him being thrown out of the Communist party, dismissed from the army and the loss of his army pension.

Following the collapse of the Berlin wall, Zatopek was rehabilitated and once more feted at home and abroad, but he had endured a dark period of exile. Zatopek's is a fascinating story of determination and drive. Forget YouTube. For the real tale, read the book.

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Cup Semi-Final

Everton L Man Utd L

Barclays Premier League

AFC Bournemouth	1	Chelsea	4
Elphick 36		Pedro 5	
Hazard 34,90		Willian 71	
Att 11,365		Att 43,837	
HT 1-2		HT 2-0	
A. Villa.....	2	SAINTS.....	4
Westwood 45,85		U 71	
Tadic 39,71		Mane 90	
Att 29,729		Att 5,065	
HT 1-2		HT 0-0	
Liverpool	2	Newcastle	2
Sturridge 48		Cisse 48	
Lallana 30		Colback 66	
Att 43,837		Att 4,387	
Man City	4	Stoke	0
Fernando 35		HT 0-0	
Aguero 43 pen		HT 2-0	
Iheanacho 64,74			

	HOME			AWAY			P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
	W	D	L	F	A								
Leicester	34	6	1	28	17	11	4	2	31	16	73		
Tottenham	34	10	5	23	12	9	6	2	31	13	68		
Man City	35	12	1	5	45	19	7	6	4	21	15	64	
West Ham	34	10	4	2	36	11	8	5	4	32	23	63	
West Ham	34	8	7	2	30	20	6	7	1	27	12	56	
Liverpool	34	7	2	30	21	8	3	6	28	24	55		
SAINTS	35	9	3	5	31	19	6	6	6	18	18	54	
Chelsea	34	5	7	5	29	27	7	4	6	24	19	47	
Stoke	35	7	3	7	19	22	6	5	7	18	29	47	
Everton	34	4	5	8	30	29	5	9	3	23	19	41	
Watford	34	5	5	7	15	15	6	3	8	18	25	41	
Wemblyouth	35	4	9	9	33	33	6	4	7	27	20	40	
Swansea	34	6	4	7	16	16	5	5	9	18	27	40	
W.B.A.	34	6	4	7	19	22	4	6	7	12	20	40	
Crystal P	35	5	3	10	17	22	5	6	6	19	23	39	
Norwich	34	5	5	7	22	27	3	2	12	13	33	31	
Sunderland	33	4	5	7	17	18	3	4	10	22	39	30	
Newcastle	35	5	7	5	26	23	2	2	14	12	41	30	
A. Villa.....	35	2	4	12	14	35	1	3	13	11	34	16	

SkyBet Championship

Blackburn	2	Bristol C	2
Graham 17,80		Kodjia 70	
Wilbraham 74		Att 12,752	
HT 1-0			
Cardiff	2	Bolton	1
Zohore 55		Clough 7	
Whittingham 90 pen		Att 24,189	
HT 0-1			
Charlton	1	Brighton	3
Gudmundsson 51		Baldock 8	
Hemed 90 pen		Skalsk 55	

HT 0-1			
Derby City	1	Sheff Wed	1
Bent 82		Bannan 69	
HT 0-0		Att 31,825	
Fulham	1	Nottm For	3
Smith 62		Tesch 23	
Lansbury 44, pen,70		Lansbury 44, pen,70	
Att 18,253		Att 18,253	
Huddersfld	1	Birmingham	1
Huddlestone 45		Cotterell 73	
HT 2-0		Att 13,054	
Hull	2	Leeds Utd	2
Hernandez 45		Wood 15	
Huddlestone 45		Dallas 88	
HT 2-1		Att 20,732	
Middlesbro	0	Ipswich	0
HT 0-0		Att 30,505	
M. K Dons.....	1	Brentford	4
Maynard 6		Canos 9	
Q.P.R.....	1	Vibe 49	
Hall 35		Wood 78	
HT 1-1		Att 20,732	
Wolves	0	Rotherham	0
HT 0-0		Att 18,757	

	HOME			AWAY			P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
	W	D	L	F	A									
Burnley	44	14	6	2	37	14	10	9	3	31	21	87		
Middlesbro	44	16	4	2	33	7	10	5	7	27	21	87		
Brighton	44	15	4	3	39	17	9	11	2	31	23	87		
Hull	43	13	7	1	40	11	9	4	9	22	27	77		
Derby City	44	12	7	3	37	15	9	7	6	28	26	77		
Sheff Wed	44	12	8	2	39	17	6	9	7	23	26	71		
Cardiff	44	12	8	2	32	19	5	8	9	23	28	67		
Ipswich	44	8	8	6	25	22	8	7	7	24	27	63		
Birmingham	44	9	4	9	25	25	7	9	6	25	21	61		
Brentford	44	9	4	9	30	30	8	4	9	34	34	59		
Preston	44	7	9	6	20	20	7	7	8	22	23	58		
Leeds Utd	44	7	8	7	22	26	7	8	7	26	29	58		
Q.P.R.....	44	9	4	9	36	25	4	9	4	9	17	28	57	
Reading	44	7	8	2	34	25	5	7	6	21	24	51		
Att 44,241		Att 11,564		Att 16,225										
Wolves	0	Rotherham	0	Att 18,757										

	HOME			AWAY			P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
	W	D	L	F	A									
Burnley	44	14	6	2	37	14	10	9	3	31	21	87		
Middlesbro	44	16	4	2	33	7	10	5	7	27	21	87		
Brighton	44	15	4	3	39	17	9	11	2	31	23	87		
Hull	43	13	7	1	40	11	9	4	9	22	27	77		
Derby City	44	12	7	3	37	15	9	7	6	28	26	77		
Sheff Wed	44	12	8	2	39	17	6	9	7	23	26	71		
Cardiff	44	12	8	2	32	19	5	8	9	23	28	67		
Ipswich	44	8	8	6	25	22	8	7	7	24	27	63		
Birmingham	44	9	4	9	25	25	7	9	6	25	21	61		
Brentford	44	9	4	9	30	30	8	4	9	34	34	59		
Preston	44	7	9	6	20	20	7	7	8	22	23	58		
Leeds Utd	44	7	8	7	22	26	7	8	7	26	30	58		
Q.P.R.....	44	9	4	9	36	25	4	9	4	9	17	28	57	
Reading	44	7	8	2	34	25	5	7	6	21	24	51		
Att 44,241		Att 11,564		Att 16,225										
Wolves	0	Rotherham	0	Att 18,757										

	HOME			AWAY			P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
	W	D	L	F	A								
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Hull	43	13	7	1	40	11	9	4	9	22	27	77	
Derby City	44	12	7	3	37	15	9	7	6	28	26	77	
Sheff Wed	44	12	8	2	39	17	6	9	7	23	26	71	
Cardiff	44	12	8	2	32	19	5	8	9</td				

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